Pikit evacuees forced to leave ahead of GMA visit

Story on PAGE A2

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By Jerome Aning

YOU could say the Department of Education sniffed at the idea. Or that the DILG plan smelled to high heavens.

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NO/ A20

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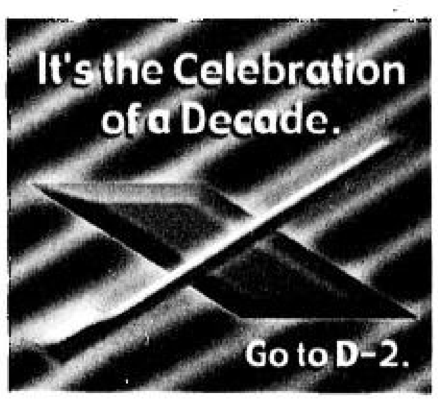
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GMA calls for fairness

'A model mentor, an ardent activist'

By Norman Bordadora, Armand Nocum and Tina Santos

TO HIS peers in the priesthood, the poor of Novaliches and his colleagues in civil society, Bishop Teodoro Bacani is a decent man.

"He has this gift of articulateness. He easily brings the teachings of the Church closer to the people, especially the poor," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, told the INQUIRER.

If Bacani is not teaching the way toward spirituality, he is lashing out at the "evil" in society and government, said Coronel, who described the bishop as a model mentor, an ardent activist and a charismatic leader.

"I remember one time when I was still a seminarian, I watched and heard Marcos on television say that he will have to deal with Bacani. This was in 1986 just before People Power I," Coronel said.

Aside from being part of the anti-Marcos demonstrations at that time, Bacani was one of the prime movers of the Church-owned Radio Veritas.

"He minces no words about corruption and he always has something to say about issues," said Melo Acuña, station manager of Radio Veritas.

Coronel was one of Bacani's students at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City. "He is one of the most sought-after speakers in retreats and recollections ... I still find it difficult to make the teachings of the Church closer and more personal. But Bishop Bacani easily does so," he said.

Even Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin believes that Bacani has a way with words whenever he delivers his sermons, it was said.

A MODEL/ A19

ROGER MARGALLO

BISHOP Teodoro Bacani is escorted by airline personnel on his way to board a Northwest Airlines flight for San Francisco at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Don't prejudge Bacani on sex raps, public told

By Armand N. Nocum, Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

AMID fears that the sex scandal involving Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. would shake the faith of Filipino Catholics, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on the public not to prejudge the Church leader who has been accused of sexually harassing his secretary. Yesterday Bacani took a business class flight for the United States.

"This is a time for sobriety, fairness and prayer," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. "Let us not dwell on speculations or rumors. Let us avoid prejudgment."

The President, who was the guest of honor at Bacani's installation as bishop of the newly created Diocese of Novaliches on Jan. 16, said the government "shall not involve itself in this issue unless there is a culpable violation of law."

Bacani is being accused of sexual harassment, a criminal offense. A person found guilty of sexual harassment can be imprisoned for up to six months. (*See story on Page A18.*)

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Bacani should have remained in the country to "face the music" instead of "escaping from the heat."

Bacani was escorted yesterday to Northwest Flight 23 by several members of the airline staff to shield him from reporters. The flight left at 8 a.m.

"As I leave, I want to deny most strongly the sexual rap imputed to me by some news accounts," Bacani, 63, said in a letter to members of his Novaliches diocese before flying for a three-week vacation to the United States.

His secretary of five years recently complained that the bishop allegedly made sexual advances toward her twice, the most recent of which was in March when he tried to hug her.

The woman, 34, who resigned as Bacani's secretary, filed a complaint with Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, the Vatican's representative in the country. The nuncio interviewed both Bacani and his accuser, and reported to the Congregation of Bishops in Rome, which will weigh the testimonies and later come up with a decision.

At worst, Bacani could be expelled or forced to resign, said Msgr. Jesus-Romulo Rañada, Bacani's spokesperson, even as he stressed that the bishop was innocent.

As the Vatican investigates the case, Church officials in the country are working to correct the "admission" Bacani made in a letter dated June 7.

"He was sorry for the consequences of a supposed inappropriate expression of affection, not the alleged sexual harassment," Rañada said.

Rañada told a local television station that the bishop apologized "because some people are shocked, some are hurt, some are weeping." The allegations made headlines in major newspapers.

"People are shocked because they couldn't believe that Bishop Bacani, who has been a great defender of the poor and even women and who has been an outspoken critic of

GLORIA/ A18

Mother of bishop's secretary describes ordeal

SHE couldn't sleep. She couldn't eat. She couldn't even get herself to work.

This was how the mother of Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr.'s alleged victim described her daughter before the scandal broke out.

"She was so depressed that she wouldn't go to work anymore. Therefore, as a mother, it was my moral obligation to act on her behalf," an INQUIRER source quoted the mother as saying.

The mother first sought help from Church insiders who helped her and the bishop's former secretary file a complaint before Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco.

The Church has refused to describe the nature of the abuse but the source said it was "beyond what was normal and acceptable."

"The bishop may be *malambing*. But it (his actions) was already beyond the usual *lambing*. Otherwise, the victim wouldn't feel violated," the source pointed out.

In fact, the mother would not have known of the abuse had she not noticed her daughter being unusually quiet and depressed.

The source said that when the victim refused to report for work for days, the mother started to ask questions prompting the woman to disclose the alleged abuse.

MOTHER/ A19

Ex-Antipolo bishop's 'girlfriend' pregnant

PDI PHOTO

BISHOP Yalung: Another beleaguered Church leader.

By Christian V. Esguerra

BISHOP Crisostomo Yalung's alleged girlfriend is pregnant again. She's giving birth this month, and she says it's his baby.

She told the INQUIRER late Sunday that the second child was conceived last September, three months after she delivered their first baby, a girl. The second is likely to be a boy, she said.

"I'm willing to undergo DNA testing anytime to prove that they're his children," said the 26-year-old Christine. Yalung resigned as bishop of Antipolo late last year after news of his affair broke. He is believed to be currently in the United States.

The daughter celebrated her first birthday on Saturday while confined for dehydration at a hospital in Metro Manila.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

CHRISTINE says she's giving birth to prelate's second child.

Her features, Christine insisted, prove that she is Yalung's daughter. The baby has the bishop's narrow eyes and light skin, the mother swore, during an interview in which the daughter was present.

EX-ANTIPOLO/ A4

Danding running, says solon

By Juliet Javellana

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. will "definitely" be running for the presidency—even if President Macapagal-Arroyo changes her mind and contests the May 2004 election.

The seemingly categorical declaration, however, came not from the founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, but from the leader of some 50 Lakas-CMD congressmen who petitioned Cojuangco on Feb. 4 to run.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, reached by phone yesterday, said he was "with my future President" in San Francisco, California, where Cojuangco is vaca-

DANDING/ A4

Cops say Yunos linked MILF, JI to Metro blasts

A SUSPECTED member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has confessed under interrogation that he plotted with the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) terror group the deadly Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila three years ago, police yesterday said.

The alleged confession by Saifulla Yunos confirms the MILF's ties with the JI, a regional group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and blamed for last year's Bali bombings, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said at a news conference in Camp Crame.

Yunos was arrested in Cagayan De Oro City on May 25 while trying to board a flight to Manila, his face wrapped in bandages and his leg in a plaster cast to conceal his identity. His companion, Egyptian Mahmud al-Gabri, was also detained.

It was only yesterday, however, that Yunos was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the media. The handcuffed suspect, dressed in an orange prison shirt and flanked by two guards, stared blankly and was not allowed to talk.

"Congratulations to the PNP," Ms Macapagal said when asked if she considered Yunos a prize catch.

Ebdane said Yunos had confessed to being a member of the so-called MILF Special Operations Group tasked with carrying out terrorist attacks.

The PNP chief said Yunos' confession had also been "validated" by convicted Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an al-

COPS/ A20

TURA
PNP-IG
DETAINEE

SAIFULLAH Yunos, suspected top MILF bomb expert, is finally presented by police officials to the media more than two weeks after his arrest. RANDY HORMILLOSA

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/10/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
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Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
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Second FRONT PAGE

Evacuees forced to leave ahead of GMA visit

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will hold a Cabinet meeting in Davao City today to kick off her eight-day sortie to Mindanao. She will mark Independence Day on June 12 in Zamboanga City where the traditional vin d'honneur with the diplomatic corps will be held.

She will also hold a command conference on that day, where she is expected to assess the military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The President is expected to visit Sarangani, Maguindanao, Cotabato City, Marawi City, Iligan City, Misamis Oriental, Butuan City and Agusan del Sur.

Ahead of the President's visit, however, thousands of evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato were told to pack up their belongings yesterday and return to their villages.

But not all of them are going home.

An evacuee, Soraida, said talk was rife they were being forced out of the evacuation centers in an attempt by the government to "sanitize" Pikit.

She said this was being done because President Macapagal and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference were coming this week.

A nongovernmental organization worker said the evacuees were being forced to return to their homes even if they were not psychologically ready.

Unprepared

"Are they prepared? Psychologically, they're not. We would be happy if they could finally go home. But what's happening is different. I think the process is wrong," said the worker, who requested anonymity.

He said some of the evacuees who were forced to load their belongings on government trucks were crying "because they were really afraid."

The transfer of the evacuees from Pikit to Pagalungan, the NGO worker said, will create a humanitarian crisis because the Pagalungan evacuation camps are not being supplied with regular relief assistance.

There are at least 14 evacuation centers in Pagalungan currently sheltering 19,104 individuals. The problem of food will be aggravated with the addition of the evacuees from Pikit, he said.

The Buisan warehouse in Pikit, the biggest evacuation camp in the area which housed some 3,000 refugees, was cleared of evacuees yesterday.

An evacuee said they had to leave the warehouse or "suffer the consequences."

"We were told that if our houses were still up tomorrow, these would be bulldozed," she said. She said they were given only until today by the local government to pack up their things and leave the warehouse.

Two options

Another evacuee at the Pikit parish gymnasium said they were told they were being given two options by the local government: Leave or get hurt.

"Many of us are already old. We don't want to be hurt. We also don't want to hurt anybody," he said.

Many of the evacuees did not return to their villages. At least 200 families transferred to other evacuation camps in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, a town next to Pikit.

Soraida, a resident of Bulol, said it was hard to believe the government when it says it is safe for them to go home. The presence of military troops in their villages is a clear indication that they will be in great danger once they return to their homes, she said.

Last Friday in Bagoenged, former mayor Mutin Malingco, husband of the current mayor, Farida Malingco, said every refugee should go home because those who remained in the camps would not be given food.

"Only those who are already in their original villages will be given assistance," he said.

During the Cabinet meeting, President Macapagal is expected to follow up the implementation of various economic projects under the P5.5-billion Mindanao National Initiative or Mindanao Natin, a mini-Marshall plan for the region.

Aside from P5.5 billion from the government, the program also received $1.3 billion in overseas development assistance funds to finance major infrastructure projects.

The Mindanao Natin economic program would be carried out in over 5,000 villages in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Western Mindanao, South-central Mindanao and Northern Mindanao. The President will be in Mindanao from June 10 to 17.

Strategic direction

In a statement on the eve of her visit, she said she wanted to "make sure our strategic directions are on track and are being applied in a manner that could bring peace and development to the poor."

She noted how Mindanao was "in the thick of the fight against terrorism and poverty, utilizing the full range of externally sourced and domestic resources."

"Mindanao will never realize its full potential until government is brought back to the center of people's lives, and unless the region's future is fully integrated into the future of the entire nation," she said.

This is the second time in her term that Ms Macapagal will commemorate Independence Day in Mindanao. She will lead flag-raising and wreath-laying rites in General Santos City.

Last year Ms Macapagal marked Independence Day in Lamitan, Basilan.

Hostage's remains recovered

AUTHORITIES have recovered the remains of an Indonesian sailor kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf and turned them over to the Indonesian consulate Monday, the military said.

Indonesian Vice Consul Johannes Manginsella received the remains of Muntu Jacobus Winowaton, one of four Indonesian sailors abducted a year ago by the bandit group in Mindanao.

The body was exhumed last week from a grave near Patikul town, Sulu, after a number of witnesses, themselves former captives of the Abu Sayyaf, led the military to the burial site, a military statement said.

Winowaton had captained a three-member crew aboard a coal barge that was making a delivery to a Filipino customer when they were abducted at sea off the island of Basilan on June 11 last year.

The three other sailors managed to escape at various times and informed Philippine authorities their captain had died. *AFP*

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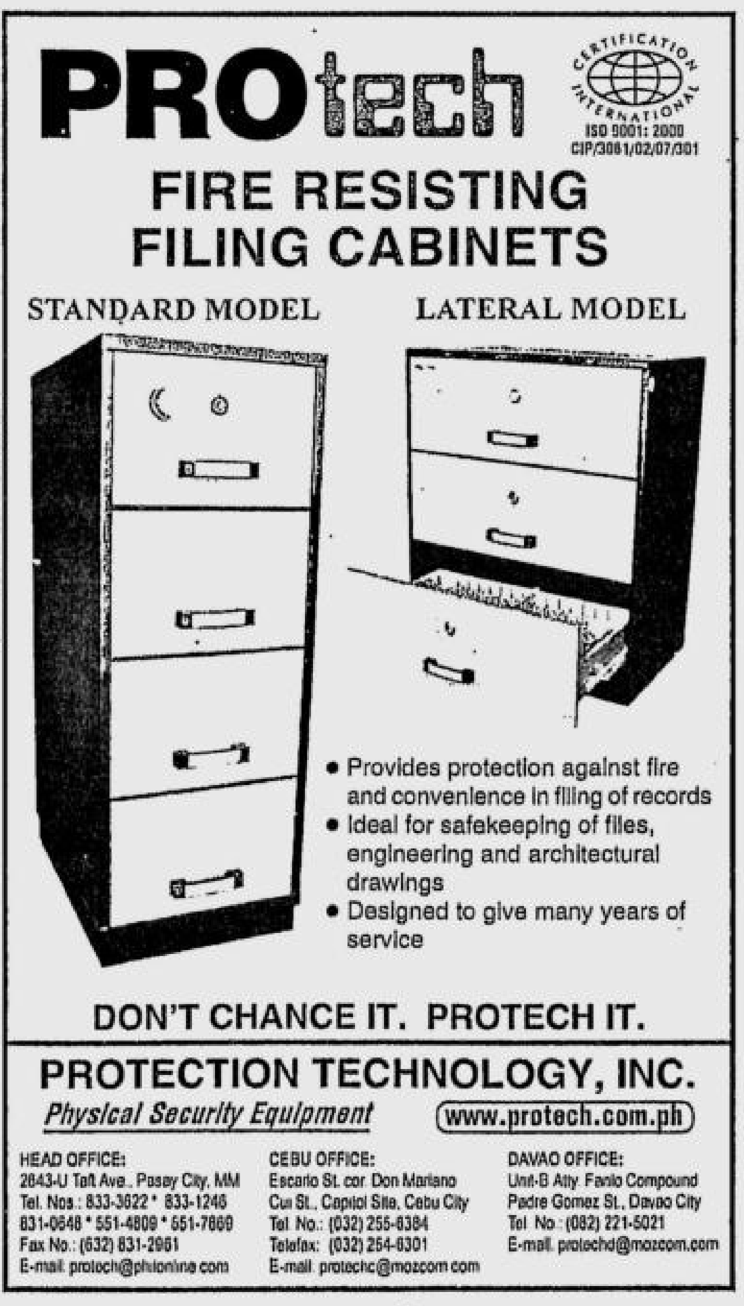
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Politics farthest from my mind–Cayetano

THERE will be no changing of the guard when the Senate resumes sessions on July 28.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, speaking through his son Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano, said yesterday "politics is farthest from my mind now."

Instead of "disturbing the present setup in the Senate," the senator wants to share the "spiritual and physical" miracle that happened to him," Allan said.

Cayetano returned on Thursday from the United States, where he underwent a liver transplant.

Asked if his father would be able to attend the reopening of the Senate next month, he said: "I hope so. He's been doing well the last few days. But we can only tell after about a week or two."

Most of the senators who signed the July 2001 power-sharing agreement between Cayetano and Senate President Franklin Drilon are now reluctant to honor it.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Cayetano's health should be the paramount concern of the senators.

The agreement gave Drilon 18 months to lead the upper chamber, after which Cayetano was to have taken over for the rest of the three-year term. The latter would have assumed the Senate presidency last December if he did not get sick. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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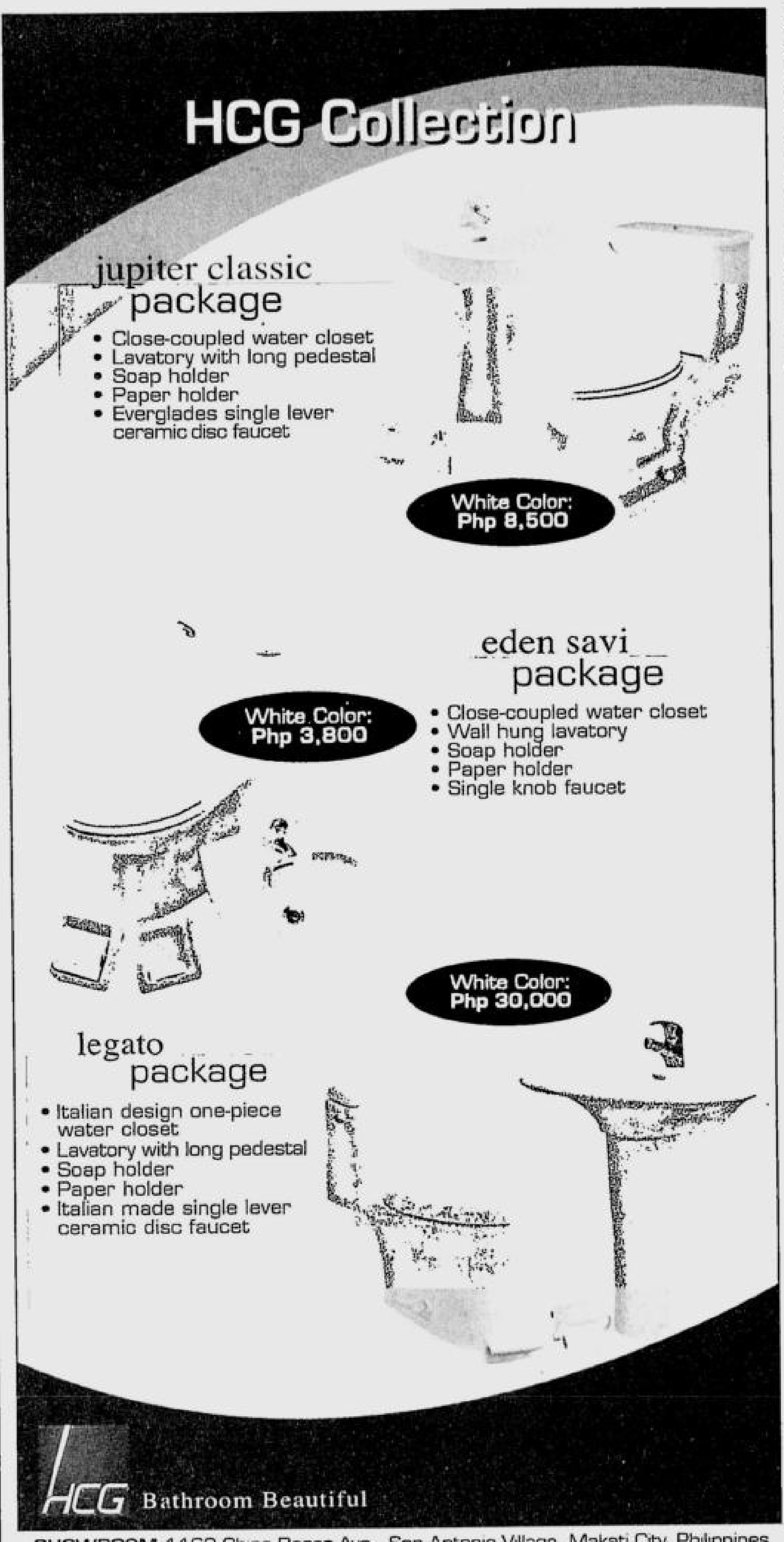

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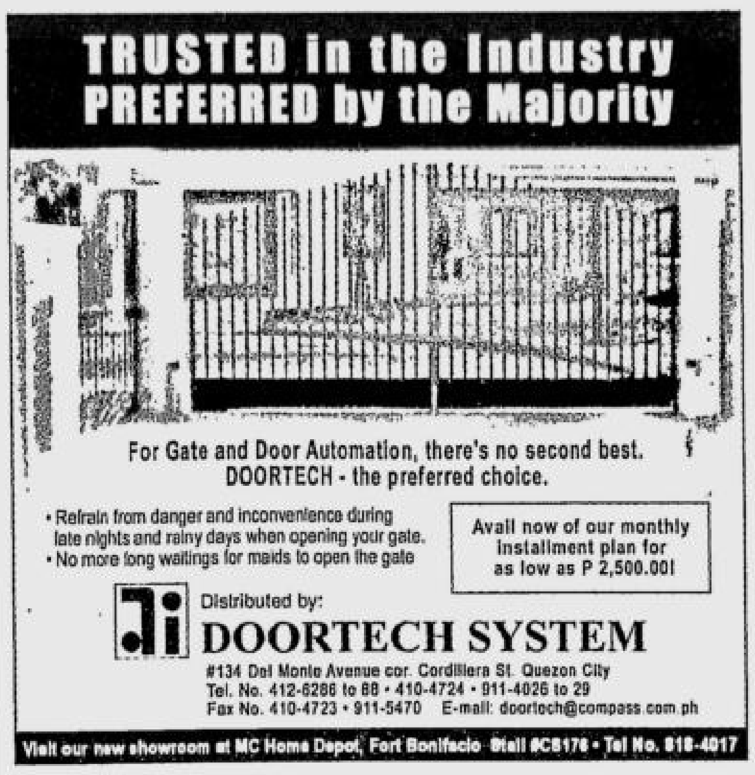

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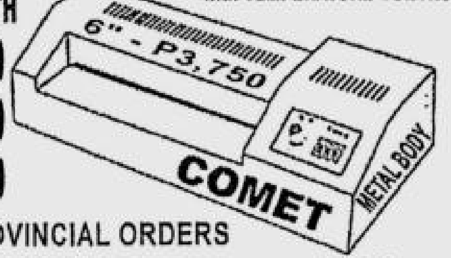

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Ex-Antipolo bishop's 'girlfriend' pregnant

From page A1

In the interview, she repeatedly asked the INQUIRER to publish her daughter's picture. When told of the newspaper's policy to protect the identity of a child caught in a controversy, she replied:

"I am giving you the go-signal. I want the whole world to know that she's Yalung's daughter. Look at her, she looks exactly like him. When she grows up, I don't want anyone to tell her that she was not Yalung's daughter. Publish the photo, please."

Yesterday, she called the INQUIRER offices again, to make sure she would see her daughter's photo in today's paper.

She claimed Yalung had signed the girl's birth certificate, as well as a letter acknowledging that the baby and the second child were his. When asked for a copy, she said the documents were in a bank vault, but promised to give the INQUIRER a copy today.

She said the bishop found out about the second baby during an excursion in Batangas in October last year. "He was surprised and said we might soon be in the news. He was concerned about my ... condition, then he embraced me. He said the baby was God's gift."

Christine said she did not expect Yalung to show up when she gives birth this month, possibly on June 22.

No word

She said she hasn't received any word from Yalung since he left for the United States last November. The Catholic hierarchy might be hiding him against his will, she claimed.

"In fairness to him, Bishop Yalung is so good," she said. "For me, he's one of the best bishops. He has helped a lot of people. He's very intelligent but is never vain."

Yalung, 49, subsequently resigned from his post in December, marking the first time a Filipino bishop stepped down because of a sex scandal.

Christine said she, too, continued to suffer from the scandal.

"Women are always the losers in this kind of game," she said in Filipino. "When we're abused, Church officials condemn us as if they don't have mothers."

"A woman could not muster the courage to go public if she's not telling the truth," she said, sympathizing with the 34-year-old secretary who has reportedly accused Bishop Teodoro Bacani of sexual harassment.

Christine said she also had to endure the fury of Yalung's former parishioners in Makati City, some of whom had purportedly threatened her into cutting her ties with the bishop. Yalung had been assigned to Makati before he was tapped to head the Antipolo diocese.

Most difficult of all, she said, was the burden of a single mother who is about to raise a second child.

"I've received no financial support whatsoever from Yalung or the Church," she said.

She and her daughter are kept afloat only by the savings she accumulated as a medical representative. She said she was a licensed medical technologist who obtained her degree in 1995.

After giving birth this month, Christine said she would file a legal case seeking financial support from Yalung. She was also planning to file a habeas corpus case against the missing bishop.

Then, she said, she would keep her peace.

"I want him to come back to help me support our children. But I no longer want us to live as husband and wife under one roof. When he comes to me sick, I'm willing to accept him, but not as a lover."

"I'm still young with a future ahead of me. He's already old and a priest at that. I just want to work and give our children a good life."

Danding running...

From page A1

COJUANGCO

tioning. The chair of San Miguel Corp., the food and beverage conglomerate, marks his 68th birthday today.

Asked about the possibility of Ms Macapagal running next year, Paras said: "But Danding is definitely running even if GMA is running."

He added: "From my conversations with him in the past two days, I believe he will run. He told me he will announce (his decision) in August," Paras said.

Paras said his assessment was that Cojuangco was not affected by reports that Ms Macapagal might run for president after all.

"From the start, he has told us that once he makes up his mind, it doesn't matter whoever the other candidates are," Paras said.

But Paras added that Cojuangco, a close ally of both the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and deposed President Joseph Estrada, "sincerely believes that she will not run."

"He believes she is sincere in her statement that she is not running. But if she decides eventually to run, it does not matter. Danding will run," Paras said.

Less certain

Cojuangco's nephew, Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, said he was now less certain the NPC would support Ms Macapagal should she run.

"We'll have to talk about that. They [Lakas leaders] have to formally inform us first if there is such a (decision)," said Teodoro, leader of the 63-member NPC, the second largest political party and member of the ruling coalition in the House of Representatives.

Reminded that the NPC had pledged its support to Ms Macapagal, he stressed: "We are supporting the coalition. So we will consult with the coalition."

Teodoro said his uncle would also consider a possible turnaround by Ms Macapagal as a factor in making his decision about 2004.

Paras said Cojuangco, once he makes a decision, would become the standard-bearer of an administration-opposition "unity coalition" composed of members of Lakas, NPC and the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

This was the same scenario painted earlier by LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara, who had told the INQUIRER he would endorse Cojuangco as LDP candidate for President.

Teodoro said there was "always that possibility" that Ms Macapagal would be a candidate in 2004.

But Teodoro became less categorical when asked if he thought Cojuangco would yield to Ms Macapagal.

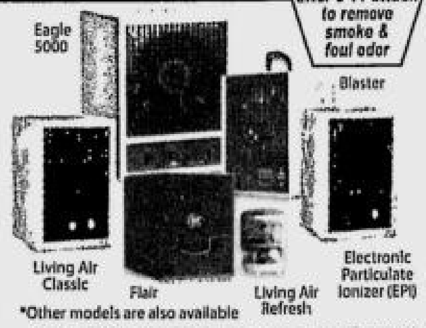
"He will consider it [the possibility that Ms Macapagal would change her mind] as a factor in making his decision," Teodoro said in a separate phone interview.

NPC leaders had expected an announcement would be made today. But Teodoro said none is forthcoming just yet.

"It's not an easy process. He cannot just make a decision. He still has many things to attend to, including himself, his family and his company," he said.

Teodoro said he talked with his uncle yesterday to greet him. They did not talk about the President's rumored plan to run next year, he said.

"He is celebrating his birthday and he does not want to spoil it with politics," Teodoro said.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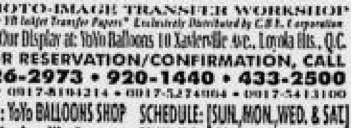
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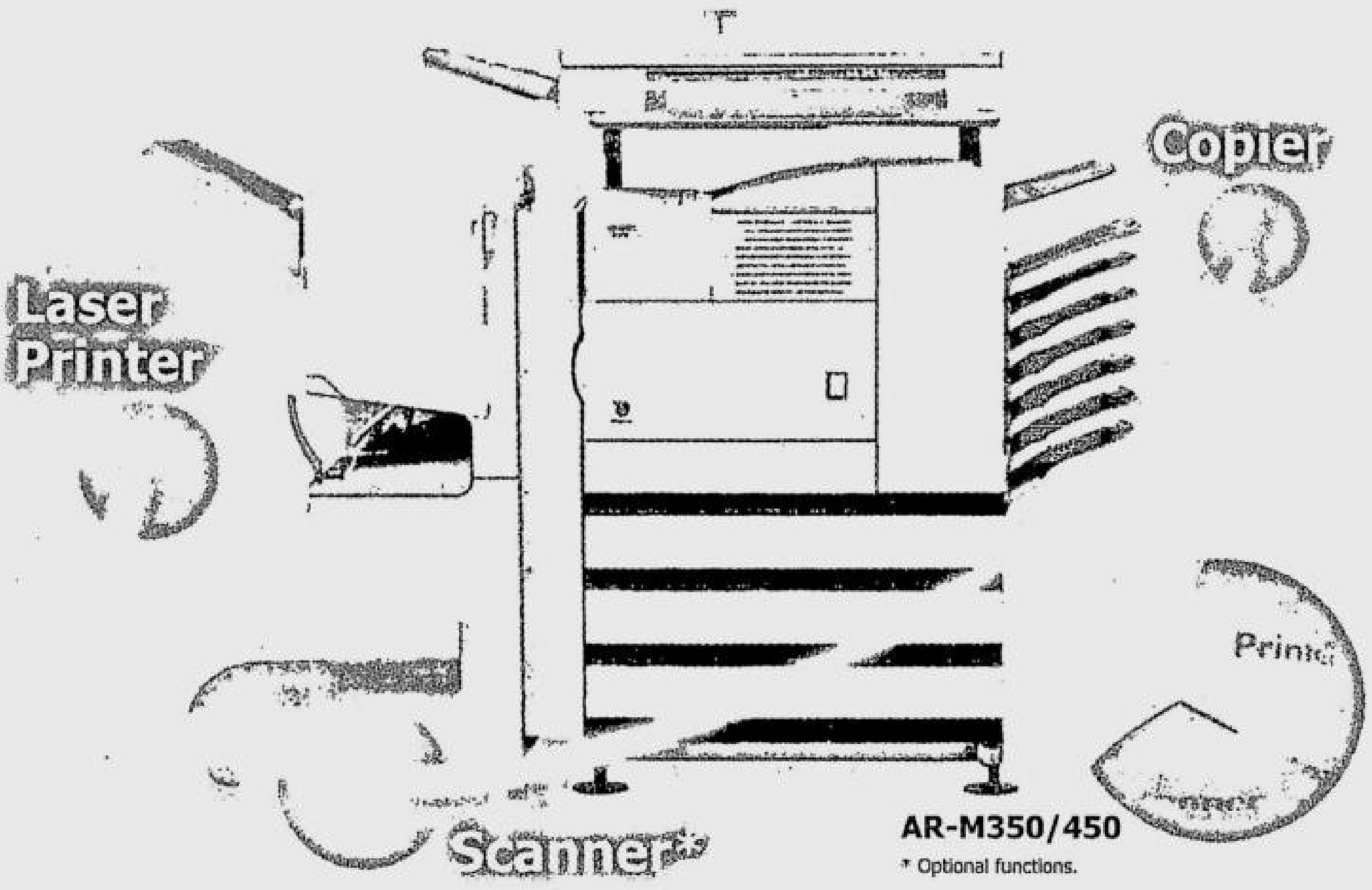
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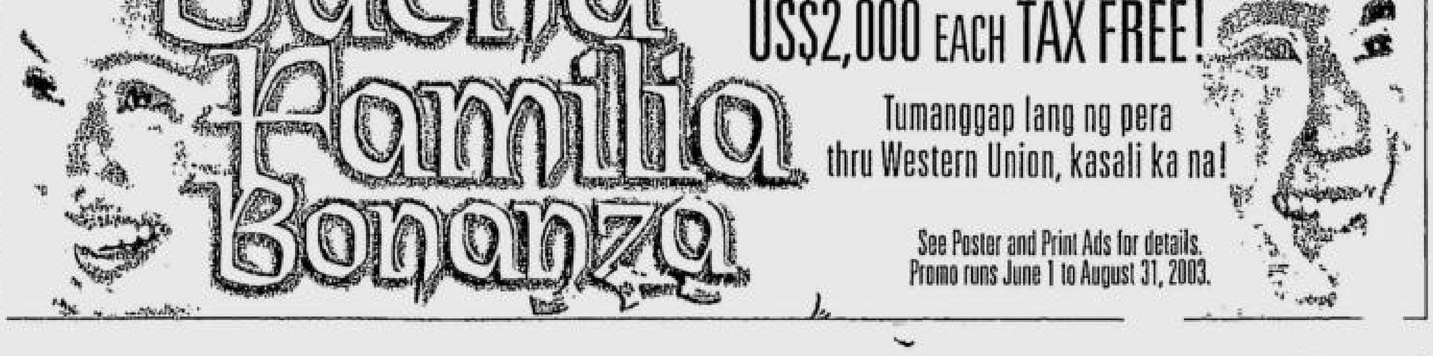
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Gov files P20-M libel suit vs PDI

ISABELA CITY—Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar yesterday filed a P20-million libel suit against the Philippine Daily Inquirer "for fabricating lies that ultimately destroyed my image and reputation." Senior desk editor John Nery, who wrote the June 3, 2003 article headlined "Basilan governor's role in Lamitan disturbing," was named respondent.

The governor described Nery's story—actually the second of a two-part special report on the second anniversary of the siege of Lamitan—as a package of well-written lies that "even I was almost convinced it was true."

Akbar filed the case with the office of city prosecutor Peter Eisma. Also named respondents were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco.

Akbar said the "very title of the article gives the malicious connotation that I have an involvement in the June 2, 2001 incident, and this malicious intention is made even clearer and more evident in the body of the article where it was written."

Roberto Buenaventura, Akbar's lawyer, said the entire article is "a public, false and malicious imputation of a crime, or of a vice or defect against the governor tending to cause his dishonor, discredit or contempt."

"This would have not gone that far if only the INQUIRER had entertained our rejoinder which we hoped was to be included in Nery's article," he said.

References to Akbar in the article were based largely on House Committee Report No. 928, issued last October and written up in the newspapers that same month. On page 27 of the report, the national defense committee said it was "disturbed by testimonial evidence pointing to the involvement of Gov. Wahab Akbar with the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group)." On page 28, it recommended that the NBI and the Ombudsman "conduct a no-nonsense investigation into the alleged involvement of ... Akbar."

The "rejoinder" Akbar sought to include in the June 3 story, through his press officer Cris Puno, was actually dated June 5 and received by the INQUIRER on June 6. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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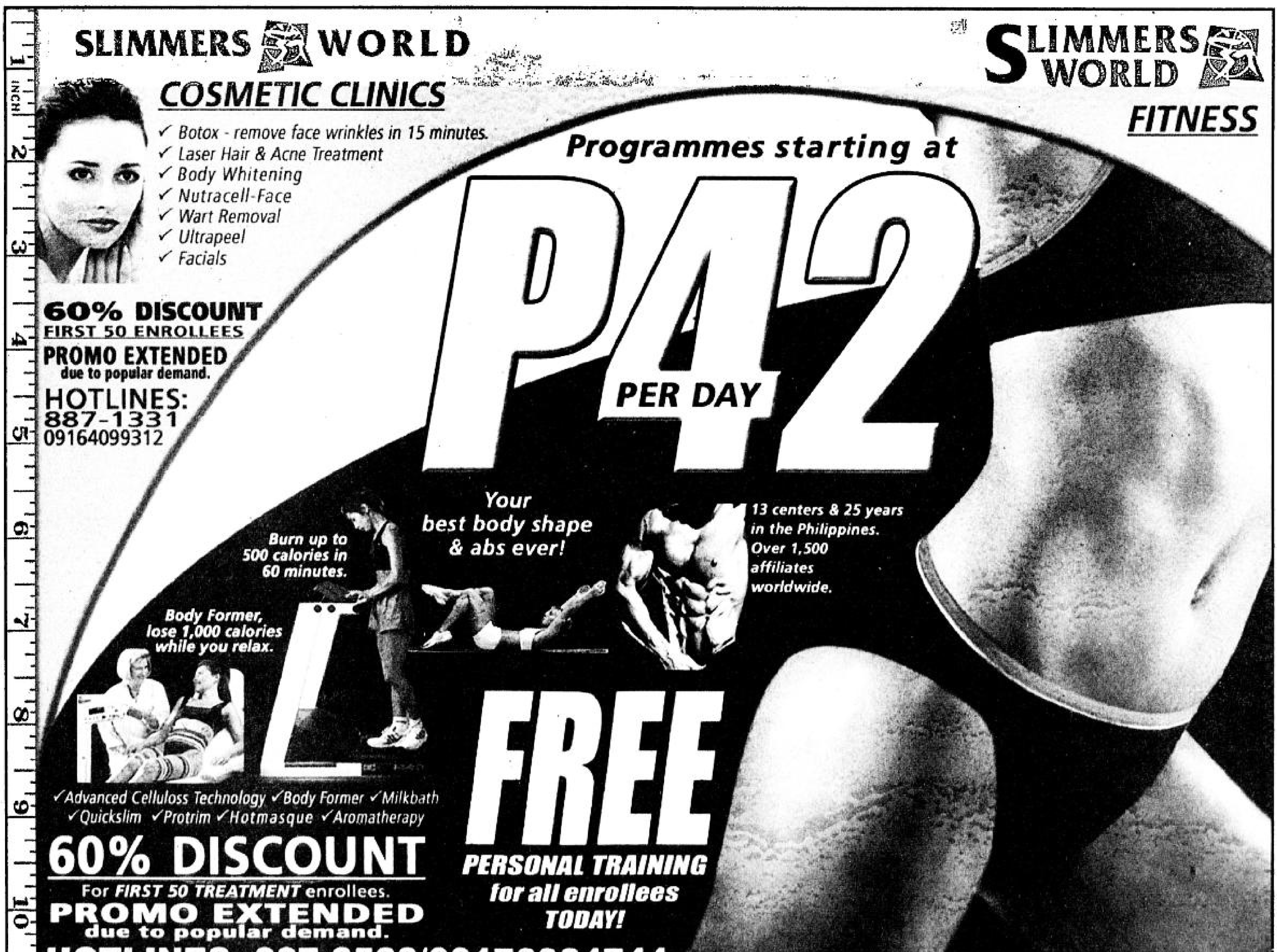
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GMA to DepEd: Hire new tutors

By Luige del Puerto and Dona Pazzibugan

THE FIRST day of classes in private schools ended without a hitch yesterday, Western Police District head Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong reported—even as the Department of Education told the President it needed more teachers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's response: an order to DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus not to insist on redeploying teachers anymore.

In a briefing at the Malacañang war room yesterday, the President told De Jesus to just hire new teachers for schools that do not have enough.

In Manila, Bulaong toured the city's school districts with National Capital Region Police Office head Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco. They went to España, Taft Ave. and Intramuros.

"So far, there was no problem, except the usual traffic in certain areas in Manila," Bulaong told the INQUIRER.

But Bulaong said the traffic could get worse next week, when public schools open.

"Not everybody has gone to school but nonetheless we have prepared for next week's full opening of classes," he said.

At the briefing, the President said: "Maybe the need (for teachers) is not that many. Maybe it will be just only a thousand schools," the President said.

De Jesus explained that the DepEd was not offering new teaching positions this year.

According to the DepEd, the teacher-student ratio at the national level stands at 1:35.

However, at the provincial and school levels, the ratios vary widely—from as low as 1:11 in Batanes to as high as 1:72 in Lanao del Sur.

In his briefing, De Jesus informed the President that he planned to redeploy teachers from schools with more than enough teachers to schools with teacher shortages.

But the teachers resist such relocation, and threaten to sue the DepEd if they are redeployed.

According to the Magna Carta for Teachers, the teachers have to give their consent before they can be redeployed. De Jesus said he hoped that the law can be amended.

The President told him amending the law would take a long time, and suggested he just hire new teachers.

Meanwhile, about 150 militant students picketed the Commission on Higher Education office in Mandaluyong City to call for the resignation of the agency's new chair, Bro. Rolando Dizon.

Members of the National Union of Students of the Philippines blamed the CHEd chief for failing to exercise its regulatory power to check "unjustified fees" collected by tertiary schools. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Don't let SARS guard down, WHO warns RP

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christian V. Esguerra

DON'T do a Canada.

The World Health Organization yesterday asked local health officials to "stay on their toes" with regard to the monitoring of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the country.

WHO representative to the Philippines Jean Marc Olive said in a press conference at the Department of Health that while the SARS epidemic was "receding" worldwide, the Philippines should not lower its guard against the mysterious disease.

"If you miss one case, it will be a problem," Olive said, citing Canada's record. "You cannot relax yet."

After reporting zero SARS cases in the third week of April, Canada suffered a resurgence of the disease with four new cases as of June 5.

China, on the other hand, reported only one case and Hong Kong two cases over the weekend. Seven other new cases were reported worldwide.

Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman said 25,051 Filipino workers have come home since May 6 from SARS-infected China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Canada, based on immigration documents submitted to the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Fearing that anti-SARS measures at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport may not be enough to filter the massive arrivals, the DILG is rushing to have all local governments pass ordinances to keep the virus at bay.

Soliman said 1,207 of the 1,610 cities and towns nationwide have so far enacted anti-SARS ordinances patterned after the DILG model. The DILG-drafted ordinance calls for massive information drives and clean-up campaigns in all barangays.

It also penalizes private hospitals that reject suspected SARS patients and funeral parlors that refuse to handle the remains of those who die from the disease, Soliman said.

"In the meantime, Filipinos coming from SARS-infected areas are requested to undergo a 14-day home confinement and limit physical contact with other people," he said.

Not all cops to be tested

By TJ Burgonio

DESPITE the provision in the anti-drugs law requiring all policemen to undergo mandatory drug testing yearly, officials yesterday admitted they could not test every cop due to lack of funds.

Thus, police officers will only be tested at random, said Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Ebdane said the Philippine National Police had no choice because it doesn't have the money to pay for the tests, which costs P300 per head.

"So to a certain extent we can conduct tests on a case-to-case basis. For now, we can do it on a random basis. It's too costly. You can just imagine the cost if you multiply P300 by 114,000," Ebdane said.

Money for drug tests was not included in the PNP budget this year. Because of this, Ebdane said, each department in the force must juggle their budget allocations to allot some funds for testing.

For now, Ebdane said, policemen to be tested are "those who were reported to have used or peddled drugs."

Under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, the police, military and other law enforcement agencies must conduct mandatory drug testing of their personnel every year.

The random drug tests for policemen were supposed to start yesterday.

Ebdane said policemen who fail to admit to drug use and undergo rehabilitation before June 9 would be dismissed outright if they test positive for prohibited drugs during the random testing.

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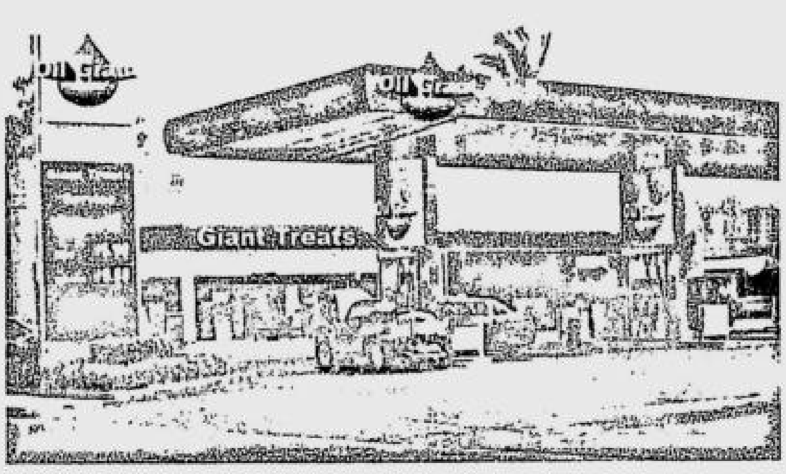

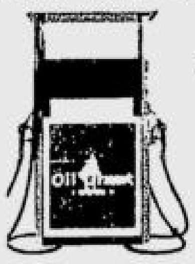

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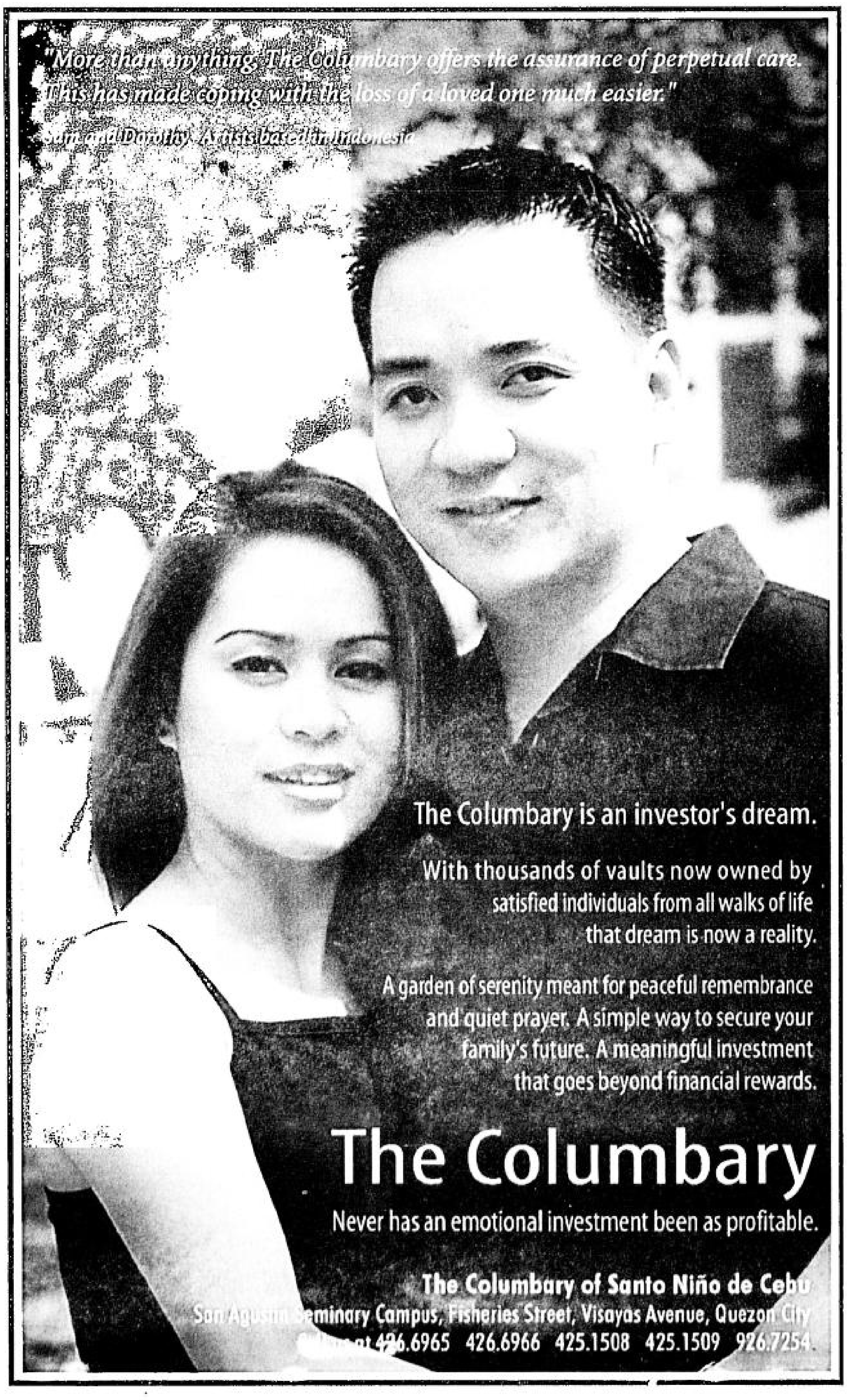

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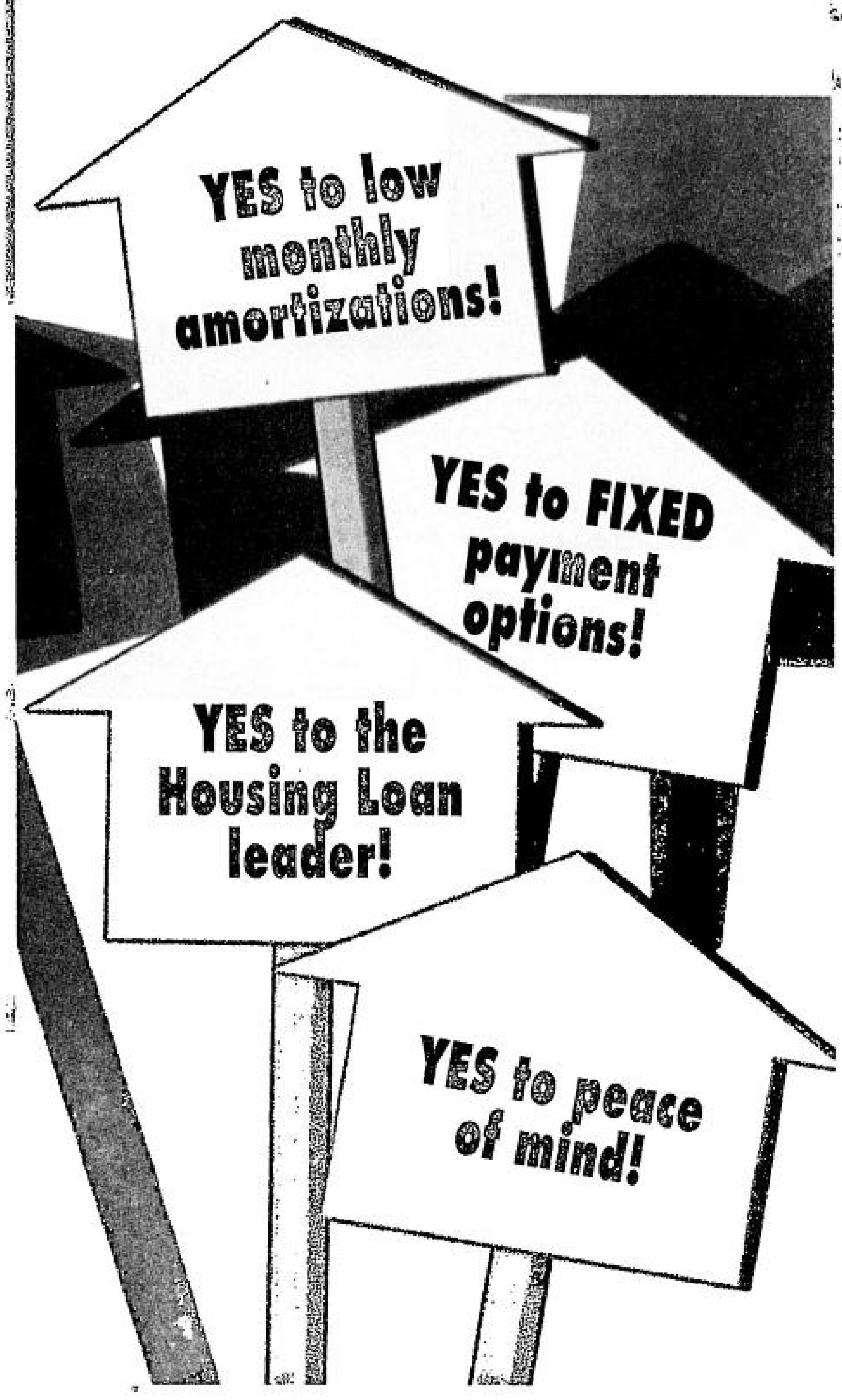
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Power to change

EDITORIAL

NANDY Pacheco, who has made a name for himself advocating seemingly quixotic ideas like the Gunless Society, is at it again. This time he is putting forward and pushing a more ambitious idea: the social transformation of the nation through political reform.

He says that to transform society we have to correct "the politics of personality, deception, hypocrisy, dishonesty, patronage, payoff, immoral compromises and guns, goons and gold." We cannot put all the blame on traditional politicians, he says, because we, the voters, were the ones who put them in office in the first place.

Pacheco quotes the Catholic Bishops who, in their Pastoral Letter on Philippine Politics (1997), said, in part: "If we are what we are today—a country of poor and powerless people—one reason is the way we have allowed politics to be debased and prostituted to the low level it is in now."

The people have the power to change the status quo, Pacheco says. But first, we have to admit: (1) that the root cause of the national crisis is moral and spiritual, (2) that we share the guilt for the sad state of affairs of our country, and (3) that we have to realize that politics has a moral dimension. Then, he says, "we have to make a personal decision to change and to do something."

Pacheco and a group of like-minded people last year organized Kapatiran ng Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (Brotherhood for the Common Good). Kapatiran is envisioned to be a community-based political movement that would make politics a means for the development of all rather than a tool for the advancement of a privileged few.

It would carry out its mission through education and political action. It would promote good citizenship through character building and the formation of values. It has a detailed platform that literally runs from A to Z. Some planks from its platform:

- Give the highest priority to projects and programs for the underprivileged, the elderly, the prisoners, disabled veterans and the youth.
- Dismantle the social structures that glorify sex, guns, violence, vice, materialism, hedonism and replace them with structures of virtue, responsibility and achievement.
- Abolish the pork barrel.
- Ensure transparency and public accountability in government activities and transactions.
- End the practice of providing armed bodyguards to candidates and public officials except the President.
- Put an end to the production of the technology of death and the arms trade.
- Abolish the death penalty.
- Revitalize and strengthen the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
- Promote a safe, clean and wholesome environment.
- Field and support candidates for public office who are morally upright and have academic qualifications and experience and who are committed to Kapatiran's national platform.

The Kapatiran platform is not entirely unrealistic or unfeasible. If only half of the some 25 items could be carried out, it could mean a big change in the social and political conditions of the country. The platform, however, does not have much to say on the economy.

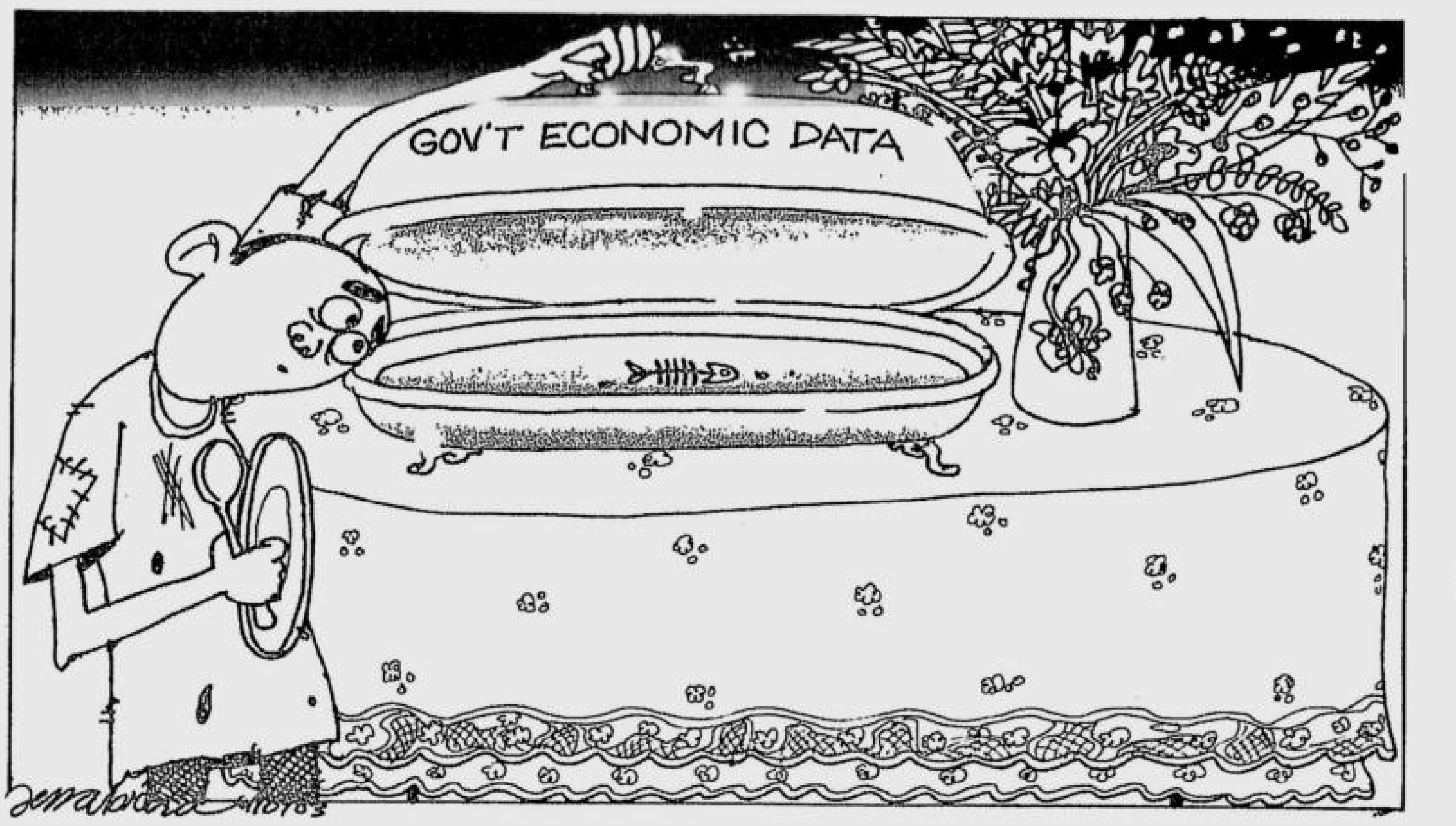
Most people would scoff at the Kapatiran idea and say that it can't be done, given the damaged social, economic and political culture of the nation. They would throw up their hands in despair, or bury their heads in the sand, content with just coasting along in this life, adjusting as best as they can to the situation. Others who have the means would leave the country and seek a better life in foreign shores. But that is defeatism of the worst kind.

When Pacheco first put forth the idea of a Gunless Society, many people just laughed and said that it could never be attained. But because of his persistence, Pacheco was able to bring about some change in official policy.

On Jan. 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo decreed that civilians licensed to own guns would no longer be allowed to carry them in public places. They would have to get special permits even for target shooting. Finally, Pacheco proved that it could be done, if only there is political will to do it.

Again, the cynics will scoff at Pacheco's latest brainchild and say it can't be done: Philippine politics has been so hopelessly damaged and corrupted that we cannot expect a radical change—not in the life of this generation, nor perhaps even in this century.

But most people said similar things about the Gunless Society, and look what has been accomplished. If we believe in ourselves, and in our power to change our lives, we can accomplish anything, if we put our minds and hearts to it.



Human parasites pressuring GMA to run

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY are so many people trying to substitute their minds with that of President Macapagal-Arroyo? Why are George W. Bush and Mahathir Mohamad meddling in our political affairs? Why are her advisers and hangers-on telling the press that this or that foreign head of state is urging her to run?

Because they are looking out for themselves, not for President Macapagal or for the country. These advisers, hangers-on, Cabinet members and assorted politicians, now the high and mighty, would be nothing without her. They're like the parasitic fleas and ticks on a dog. Without the dog, they would be dead if they can't find another host.

Well, these human parasites, like the fleas and the ticks, would be as good as dead if their benefactor is no longer president and a candidate from another party succeeds her. So they're shaking in their shoes, afraid that Ms Macapagal will be true to her promise not to run again in 2004.

But if she changes her mind, so what? Some say the people will be disappointed if she breaks her promise. They will think she is a liar, they say.

But since when did politicians not break promises? Since when did they not lie? The word "politician" is synonymous with "lies" and "broken promises." As soon as a politician makes a promise, people expect him to break it. When a politician says something, people believe the opposite. When a politician swears that a piece of paper is white, people believe it's black. And when he says it's black, they believe it's white.

That's the way it is. People don't trust politicians. They're expected to lie and cheat and steal. Not all of them do, but that is what people expect them to do. Politicians think that when they sweet-talk the people and make *bola* with them, they're able to deceive them. They don't. The people just don't believe them. So President Macapagal need not worry that the people would be disappointed if she breaks her promise not to run.

So I would like to tell her: Don't make it hard on yourself. Don't play *hele-bele bago quiere* and beat around the bush. You want to run, say so. People like straight-talking politicians because they're very rare. It's so easy to make excuses for breaking one's word. Like: "The people are clamoring for me to run. I can't turn my back on them. I want to serve them." Isn't that the standard excuse?

But it is understandable why she is hesitating. She isn't sure she can win even with all the resources of the government and her supporters behind her, considering how unpopular she is. She may lose the election. What a loss of face that would be. She remembers how her own father, Diosdado Macapagal, suffered when he lost his reelection bid to Ferdinand Marcos. Any sensible person would want to avoid the same fate.

But the human fleas and ticks urging her to run are not thinking of her. They're thinking of themselves. As soon as they sense that she's going to lose, they'd be the first to desert her and look for a new host, just like the Cabinet members and military commanders who deserted President Estrada to be the first in line to be appointed by the new administration.

* * *

But why is Ms Macapagal still entertaining ideas of running? Why are the fleas and ticks pressuring her to go back on her word instead of latching on to a new benefactor? Because no presidential aspirant has risen as a sure winner like the first Ramon Magsaysay did. Only Fernando Poe Jr. seems like a sure winner, but he has sense enough to know his handicaps and does not want what happened to his *pare* to happen to him.

The early bird and frontrunner in the surveys, Raul Roco, is not surging ahead of his rivals. The others are hedging their ambitions waiting to see what President Macapagal will do. Juan Flavier and Jun Magsaysay have already announced they would not run if GMA runs. They're there only for the ride. *Baka maka-tsamba.* Danding Cojuangco is likely to do the same as he is hoping to be anointed by GMA. If GMA runs, all of them are hoping to be chosen as her running mate, assuming that Speaker Jose de Venecia will fail in his bid to change our system of government into a parliamentary one. Loren Legarda can't be GMA's running mate—a patriarchal Philippines won't like two women running as a presidential and vice presidential team. Ping Lacson has already launched his presidential bid but some people think he has other things on his mind, mainly how to dodge the Kuratong Baleleng massacre case.

So who else is there? Nobody sticks out like a sore thumb. Erap? He may still be able to put up a good fight but he can't run for president anymore in spite of what he claims—the Constitution is clear on that. JDV? He had his chance and he muffed it. Vice President Teofisto Guingona? He is a good man, but even he realizes that his chances of winning the presidency are slim. So who else? No more. For the sad truth is that we are terribly short (no pun meant) of good leaders. We are scraping the bottom of the barrel.

And that is why some people have not given up on GMA. The barrel may be almost empty but one small apple is still better than a number of rotten ones.

* *

TODAY'S JOKE: A housewife was accusing her maid of stealing her panties when her husband walked into the room.

Husband: What's the problem?

Wife : She stole three of my panties.

Maid : *Hindi po totoo 'yan.* I don't need any panties. I don't wear any. *Hindi ba, sir?*

Texts

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ with fascination Artemio Panganiban's account of the events in January 2001, which ended Joseph Estrada's presidency and catapulted Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to power. It's a chapter in a book Panganiban has written on the judiciary. Our publication of it last Sunday was inspired by Erap's recent plea for the justices and the people to give him back the position he lost.

In his account, Panganiban argues that public interest demanded that the Supreme Court swore in GMA as president posthaste. The legal basis for it was any one of four things. One. Erap had already effectively resigned. Two, he was permanently disabled from discharging his duties. Three, he had abandoned the presidency. And four, the Supreme Court merely upheld a fait accompli.

The political basis for it was that the country was in danger of being plunged into civil war. Though Erap had already lost his mandate, he continued to have a retinue of thugs who had grown restless and anarchic. In Edsa, where People Power II was taking place, a group had already broken away and was marching toward Malacañang, ignoring, or defying, Jaime Cardinal Sin's call for them not to. With Erap no longer in control of his people and with no one having taken his place, a dangerous power vacuum had set in. An extraordinary situation needed an extraordinary solution. Hilario Davide went the extra(ordinary) mile: He swore in GMA.

The first thing that struck me upon reading this account is the importance of historical interpretation. You don't have to be a postmodernist to realize the importance of texts, or the way we interpret our past and present. That has the tremendous power to determine our attitudes toward the world around us and organize our actions in response to it. I've always said the activists and NGOs who spearheaded Edsa II should produce their own histories, or stories, or texts, about what happened there. It's not just a matter of putting things on record. It's a matter of shaping perception, crystallizing thoughts, imposing order on formless reality.

Panganiban is a friend, but if his account has firmed up anything in my mind, it is only what Edsa II is not.

It is not, first of all, the product of law in the conventional sense of law as the set of rules we find in the statute books. It is the product of law in the broader, deeper, sense of the unwritten laws of the land, which we find in people's hearts and minds. The first is, or should be, only a pale and imperfect reflection of the second. The Supreme Court will never lack for chapter and verse to defend its decision, and neither will Erap's lawyers. But the bottom line is that, like the first Edsa, the students and factory hands, the writers and street sweepers, the housewives and prophets, the nuns and whores, had spoken. They had chosen to end an epic iniquity. It was not just the absolute number that gathered to do it, it was the sweep and diversity of its composition, reflecting pretty much all the institutions of society. You can't have any higher law than that.

Second of all, Edsa II is not the product of military intervention. That of course is what Angelo Reyes has been trying to make us believe. At one point last year, there was a debate sparked by some Erap loyalists filing a case against him in court, citing the unconstitutionality of his desertion of his commander in chief. I said then and say now that that was giving him and the AFP more importance than they deserved. It made them look like the meat and potatoes, when they were merely the gravy. Who the devil cares whether his decision to join the Edsa forces was constitutional or not? It was the fourth day of Edsa II when he and Orly Mecado decided to throw their lot with the protesters. By then, Erap's end was in sight.

Third of all, Edsa II was not the product of Cardinal Sin's intervention. Though he did contribute mightily to it than did its main beneficiary, who was GMA. Sin's call for Satur Ocampo and company not to march to Mendiola was not motivated entirely by a fear of bloodshed, it was motivated as well by a fear of Edsa II slipping away from his grasp. The Edsa Shrine has a power that goes beyond symbols, or it is a symbol that carries an immense power by itself. So does Mendiola. Edsa is Sin's, Mendiola is Satur's. The truth of that would be proven much later when Sin's sidekick, Soc Villegas, would alienate the entire urban poor community of Metro Manila by saying its ragged representatives, who made up "Edsa III," were not worthy to set foot on the Shrine. The very term, "Edsa II," is already a triumph for Sin. But the reality refutes it. Edsa II is not his.

Most of all, Edsa II was not the product of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's bravery. At least Cory could arguably claim that honor for Edsa I. You can't find a greater betrayal than GMA rewarding Reyes and company and forgetting the people who truly, if grudgingly, brought her to power.

Those were the activists and NGOs and students, who protested Erap's plan to bury Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani from the very start. That was the press which protested Erap's efforts to muzzle its freedom. That was an outraged citizenry, which completely spontaneously rose to protest Tessie Oreta and company's efforts to block the second envelope from being opened. If Erap may not reclaim the presidency at all today, it is not because of the Supreme Court or the AFP or the Church or GMA, or all of the above. It is because of the people.

They're the ones who gave GMA the power and obligation to become President—even if she now claims her mandate from George W. Bush.

Texts do not just interpret history, they shape history.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Small fisherfolk plead: Restore DAO 17

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE COMMUTING public regularly taking the Northern Luzon Expressway (NLEX) has been lamenting the horrendous traffic there, owing to the road construction that has resulted in the closure of one side. Traffic has also been aggravated by innumerable potholes caused by the rains. Taciano Mutuc, assistant vice president of the Philippine National Construction Co.'s Northern Luzon Tollway Division, was pleading with motorists to "bear with the repair work, the first to be done since the NLEX was built 30 years ago." But that is one major reason for today's misery: those running the NLEX waited for 30 years before repairing it, when common sense should have made them repair it periodically. For instance, with one side of the NLEX closed to traffic, they should make the shoulder of the usable side passable, but these are in very bad shape too. In this day and age of modern technology, potholes can be quickly repaired, but this is not being done. *Tiisin ninyo* seems to be the constant message to commuters.

* * *

What infuriates commuters even more is the lack of personnel to supervise traffic during the critical hours of traffic build-up at both the NLEX and the Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX), or when the rains pour. Earlier I related that incident when a big LPG hauler fell on its side at the SLEX, forcing the closure of both sides of the highway. Sadly, very few PNCC personnel were around to advice motorists not to enter the SLEX, and many were trapped there for over 15 hours. It is interesting to note that the Australian firm undertaking the NLEX construction, Leighton Contractors Asia, seems to be giving us Filipinos the kind of service it thinks we deserve, when it wouldn't behave this way in its own country. It seems to have adopted the callous thinking of the PNCC and the Lopez-owned Manila North Tollways Corp. that Filipino commuters are used to suffering anyway, so they should be able to take some more.

* * *

At our dzRH program, former Senate President and Kilosbayan head Jovito Salonga showed us the December 2000 issue of Kilosbayan magazine. An article written at the time of Estrada's Senate impeachment trial gave an insight into former President Estrada's principal lawyer in his impeachment suit against the Supreme Court justices, Rene Saguisag, which may be difficult to reconcile with his impassioned fanaticism.

Headlined, "Erap should resign on Dec. 15 as his X'mas gift to our People," Saguisag outlined a "formula" for resolving the political turmoil at that time: "That President Erap resigns on Dec. 15, 2000, as his Christmas gift to the people, effective June 30, 2001, for a new president, a new legislature and new local officials, for a new beginning." He said "the impeachment trial continues, but no matter what, (Erap) goes not later than June 30." In the meantime, opined Saguisag, Erap "should clean up his act, stay within the marriage vows, ensure clean elections, make wise appointments, etc. in the memory of his father. Some cleaning up would remain." Incredibly the author of that "formula" is the same lawyer whom the Daily Tribune recently quoted as saying he was "ready to give up my life" to defend his conviction that Erap was "still the legitimate president of the republic" and that he would "never accept" the legitimacy of the Macapagal government.

* * *

One of the first moves of Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun was to throw out Department Administrative Order No. 17, which was promulgated on June 11, 2001 by her predecessor Heherson Alvarez. DAO 17 decreed that municipal waters within a 15-km range from the shore would be open only to small fishermen, and it authorized the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority to delineate these waters. Gozun asserted that she was merely following the opinion of the Department of Justice that DAO 17 is the Department of Agriculture's responsibility. Her move was widely regarded as a surrender to the big commercial operators who had earlier blocked Alvarez's confirmation at the Commission on Appointments, especially since Rep. Celso Lobregat, Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo's first cousin, extracted from her a written promise of revocation of DAO 17, and two days later she was confirmed.

A substitute guideline issued by Lorenzo has been criticized as watered-down, since it excludes uninhabited islands that were once part of municipal territories. Various fisherfolk groups have pleaded for the restoration of DAO 17 in its original form. This is a golden opportunity for the administration to render justice to three million small fishermen.

* * *

A recent article by former Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez stressed how the small fishermen have been badly hurt by DAO 17's revocation. Ordoñez noted that in 2001, commercial fishers and municipal fishers each accounted for 31 percent of the catch, but the municipal folk employed 68 percent compared to only 6 percent for the big fishers. More small fishermen benefited per capita from DAO 17. Moreover, various small fishermen's groups testified how it allowed them to increase their catch, with one Palawan group of 20 boats, each with five fishermen, attesting that their catch increased from 50 kilos to one ton per trip. Now their catch has gone down and as Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of a fisherfolk group called Tambuyog Development Center, noted, an ordinary fisherfolk family of six earns about P3,000 a month, owing to the competition with commercial fishing operators.

In his article, Ordoñez recommended that Namria immediately resume the delineation of municipal waters, especially those with offshore islands, since excluding them would deprive 33 percent of our 915 cities and municipalities of their coastal waters. We hope the President will restore DAO 17.

Explosives litter Iraq

FEATURE

Ruth Gidley

LONDON—The war in Iraq has left the country littered with explosives—land mines, ammunition left behind by Iraqi forces and live bomblets from US and British attacks—which have injured at least 15 people a day since Saddam Hussein's government fell on April 9.

US and British coalition officials admit they used cluster bombs in Iraq, in spite of pleas from advocacy groups to avoid using them in civilian areas where inquisitive children and men scavenging for scrap metal have paid a high price.

Sean Sutton of the British-based Mines Advisory Group (MAG) told Reuters: "There's going to be a lot of reminders around for other children not to play with the stuff. I can't imagine there's going to be a classroom in the north without scarred children in it. It's so widespread."

Many deaths and injuries are not registered, so it is difficult to estimate casualties, but Sutton said MAG reported 320 injuries in northern Iraq in the first month after April 9. He said the real figure was probably much higher, since deaths were recorded only if they occurred in hospitals, or if MAG gathered data by speaking to victims in hospitals and found out from relatives or doctors that other people had been killed in the same accident.

"Averaging all of that out, it was over 500 injuries from April 10 to the end of April, and 80 deaths that we knew of," Sutton said.

In northern Iraq, some explosives date from the war between Iran and Iraq from 1980 to 1988, military action by Saddam's government against the predominantly Kurdish population and the first Gulf war in 1991.

Richard Lloyd, director of the British non-government agency Landmine Action, told Reuters: "The conflict this year has made what we knew was a serious problem much worse."

The most dangerous areas for land mines are on the former front line between the Kurdish-controlled north and government-held areas, and the border with Iran. "Where there were Iraqi positions, at the moment we must assume unless proven otherwise that they were protected with minefields, since it was standard procedure," Sutton said.

There is a danger throughout the country from abandoned Iraqi stockpiles and the debris of cluster bombs and explosives used by US and British forces. Lloyd said there were reports of unexploded ordnance in Najaf, Nassiriyah and Hillah in the south of the country, as well as Baghdad and Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

British Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said on May 29 that British forces had used cluster bombs in built-up areas around Basra. NGOs said there were a large number of strikes around Kirkuk and Mosul.

The use of cluster bombs is controversial because they often fail to explode at the moment of impact and can cause serious injuries if picked up.

The British Defense Ministry says the cluster bombs used by its army have a failure rate of about 2 percent. The models used by Britain's Royal Air Force and the US army have a failure rate of about 10 percent.

"Before the conflict, we tried to persuade the United States and United Kingdom to at least restrict their use, based on what we've seen in other recent conflicts where it's caused major humanitarian problems," Lloyd said. "Both the US and the UK have used them in massive numbers."

Ingram told BBC radio: "Cluster bombs are not illegal. They are effective weapons. There were troops, there was equipment in and around built-up areas, therefore the bombs were used accordingly to take out the threat to our troops."

Sutton said the biggest problem was stockpiles of munitions left behind by the Iraqi army. "Kids were taking out the boosters from shells and mortars which is like cordite—gunpowder—and making big flashes out of it."

The strategy of organizations such as MAG is to work through schools and religious leaders to educate communities about the dangers of explosives, mark dangerous areas and fence them off, and then remove or destroy dangerous items.

Sutton said he was photographing children picking flowers and playing next to a minefield when he was approached by a man who told him the family had returned to their village two weeks before, after years in Baghdad. They had fled the bombing and unexploded ordnance in the city.

"This is the joke," he told Sutton. "Look what my son's playing with."

"I turned around and his son was holding four machinegun rounds," Sutton said. "I told him what MAG was doing and asked him what he thought. 'I could kiss you!' he said."

Archie Law, UN Mine Action Service (Unmas) program officer for Iraq, told Reuters from New York that the Swiss Federation for Demining was surveying access routes for the UN World Food Programme. He said they were checking if food distribution points, warehouses and flour mills were safe from mines and unexploded ordnance.

Unmas is coordinating UN work on land mines and its emergency response program in Iraq is based in Basra. Law said Unmas was working closely with occupying authorities.

"We're not in the business of telling people where to go. It's a very collaborative effort."

Reuters

Soldiers' letters (II)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(Following is the continuation of last Saturday's column.)

FROM FIEDDING Lewis Poindexter of the Second Oregon:

"About dark, before Company D's return, Colonel Summers rode over to General Wheaton's headquarters. Shortly after reaching there reports, which afterwards proved to be somewhat exaggerated, came in that two companies of the Twenty-second Infantry had been literally cut to pieces, having fallen into an ambush. After a hasty consultation it was decided to proceed at once to kill or drive into the lake every native possible to be found in the half-moon-shaped district lying between the mouth of the Mateo river and the farther end of the lake, a distance of twelve miles."

From Charles R. Wyland of Company C, Washington Volunteers, March 27:

"This war is something terrible. You see sights you could hardly believe, and a life is hardly worth a thought. I have seen a shell from our artillery strike a bunch of Filipinos, and then they would go scattering through the air, legs, arms, heads, all disconnected. And such sights actually make our boys laugh and yell, 'That shot was a peach.' A white man seems to forget that he is human.... Hasty intrenchments (*sic*) were thrown up to protect our troops from this fire, the bodies of many slain Filipinos being used as a foundation for this purpose, intrenching (*sic*) tools being scarce. Other bodies were thrown into the deep cuts across the road, and with a little top dressing of dirt made a good road again for the Hotchkiss gun serving with the left wing to advance to a position commanding the bridge, where the regiment was to force a crossing in the morning."

From F. A. Blake of California who was in charge of the Red Cross:

"I never saw such execution in my life, and hope never to see such sights as met me on all sides as our little corps passed over the field, dressing wounded. Legs and arms nearly demolished; total decapitation; horrible wounds in chests and abdomens, showing the determination of our soldiers to kill every native in sight. The Filipinos did stand their ground heroically, contesting every inch, but proved themselves unable to stand the deadly fire of our well-trained and eager boys in blue. I counted seventy-nine dead natives in one small field, and learn that on the other side of the river their bodies were stacked up for breastworks."

From Lt. Henry Page of the Regular Army:

"After a stay of about eight months among these people, during which time no opportunity has been lost to study their qualities, I find myself still unable to express a decided opinion about the matter, but I can unreservedly affirm that the more evidence collected the greater my respect for the native and his capacities.... The recent battle of February 5th was somewhat of a revelation to Americans. They expected the motley horde to run at the firing of the first gun. It was my good fortune to be placed—about ten hours afterward—near the spot where this first gun was fired. I found the Americans still held in check. Our artillery then began to assail the enemy's position, and it was only by the stoutest kind of fighting that the Tennessee and Nebraska Regiments were able to drive them out.

"The Filipinos' retreat, however, was more creditable than their stand. Perfect order prevailed. One of their company would hold our advance until the company in the rear could retire and reload, when in turn this company would stand until the former had retired and reloaded. A frequent exclamation along our lines was: 'Haven't these little fellows got grit?'

They had more than grit—they had organization... In each town a church, a convent or a priest's home, a 'tribunal,' which is courthouse, jail and record office all in one, and a school, constitute the public buildings. The schools were neat, substantial buildings, which testified that the Spanish made an honest effort to educate the masses. The Filipino is very anxious to learn, and the new government of Aguinaldo used every effort to start afresh these schools. The number of natives who speak Spanish as well as their native tongue, and who also know how to read and write, is remarkable.

"No school teacher has been appointed in San Jose, and the school buildings are held by the American officers. In spite of this discouragement there is a private school flourishing in a native hut."

From Theodore Conley of the Kansas Regiment:

"Talk about dead Indians! Why, they are lying everywhere. The trenches are full of them.... More harrowing still: think of the brave men from this country, men who were willing to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of Cuba, dying in battle and from disease, in a war waged for the purpose of conquering a people who are fighting as the Cubans fought against Spanish tyranny and misrule. There is not a feature of the whole miserable business that a patriotic American citizen, one who loves to read of the brave deeds of the American colonists in the splendid struggle for American independence, can look upon with complacency, much less with pride. This war is reversing history. It places the American people and the government of the United States in the position occupied by Great Britain in 1776. It is an utterly causeless and defenseless war, and it should be abandoned by this government without delay. The longer it is continued, the greater crime it becomes—a crime against human liberty as well as against Christianity and civilization....

"Those not killed in the trenches were killed when they tried to come out.... No wonder they can't shoot, with that light thrown on them; shells bursting and infantry pouring in lead all the time. Honest to God, I feel sorry for them."

(Excerpted from http://www.boondocksnet.com/ai/ailtexts/soldiers.html)

Love room

YOUNG BLOOD

M. Hilado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S hot and it's really getting hotter here. And of course my PC is even hotter than the sun as I hit the keys unceasingly.

Nope, I'm not working or having summer class projects. I'm simply hooked on chat sessions again, a habit formed since 486 PCs evolved. Now that I have a Pentium 4, it's like having Dreyers compared to what I had during the Presto era. I don't intend to discriminate labels here though.

The virtual world has become my haven each summer. I don't desire the white beaches anymore, or mountain climbing, trekking or anything that used to attract me. All I want is to be online 24/7.

To illustrate: I skip bath (read: as in real bath with scrubbing) most of the time. I settle for quick showers just to cool down and avoid "*pasma*" as my mom puts it. I barely lift my butt from the chair, simply because I don't want to keep my friends hanging and waiting for my reply (and I'm referring to virtual friends here). And I'm sure, our maids wouldn't dare to be near me because I'll make them run too many errands like I used to. As in: "*Yaya, paabot ng ...*" or "*Pakuha ng...*"

So, what do I get? Hmmm. Screams from my mom telling me our phone and electric bills are going into five figures, heavy eye bags, much too many pimples, eye strain and migraine. And an empty stomach that cries out for some solid food.

But those are only negative ones. There are good ones as well. There is less laundry for my *yayas* to do (read: I don't change too often), fewer trips to the kitchen, meaning less consumption of food to offset the rising electric bills. I don't spend so much, except for pizza (delivered) to munch on while hitting those keys, and for this year, a zip disk to back up my downloaded files and a webcam to heighten my chat experience. The cam saved me the trouble of scanning my pics.

I'm not a chat addict; I'm a seasonal chat addict. One thing that I can be very proud of is my self-control, which is evident during school days when I communicate with them through text messages. Spending for the loads is another interesting story I have, but that will have to wait for another time.

More than all that, the best reward I get from chatting are my "summer loves" with my virtual suitors which frequently end by June because by that time, I am back to reality and chasing my prince charming in school for real. And that really keeps me busy apart from outdoing my classmates in History and English.

You might wonder what kind of love I'm referring to. I admit it's more of infatuation. It's like dying if he wouldn't leave any message for me in case we missed signing-in simultaneously. The absence from the chat room makes me sick such as when my mom drags me to join her and her friends on their Saturday night *gimik*. On the other hand, I feel as if I were on Cloud Nine the moment I see him getting online. It refreshes me like the morning dew. He has become my elixir.

As the summer ends, I'm aware that this world will soon fade away. I will try to explain to them that my studies will take up almost all of my time, though we can still communicate through text, and that my brothers will surely tear me to pieces if I get in the way of their theses and school projects, which often carry the title, "PC Game: How to win the battle." These are things they leave undone during the entire summer, since they are busy chasing girls everywhere, even to Basilan.

This summer, things have been different because I found my true love. I still chat very often, but only to a person I have known well for a year now. He is the same person I met one summer ago and with whom I had a relationship that I thought would last for just that summer. Among the virtual flings I have had, he was the only one who stormed our gate one night, saying he couldn't live with simply staring at me through his monitor. He wanted at least to feel the tips of my fingers and a strand of my hair, stare at my wide grin and feel the warmth of my breath as I say "gtg" (got to go). He's a true gentleman with great visions in life.

As I say goodbye to the countless summer loves I had in the past, I'm wishing them the best of luck so that they will finally find their true loves. No matter where he or she may come, whether from the chat room or across that room, the bottom line is that true love exists. And when you finally find the real one, hang on. And work on how you can click together.

I have said goodbye to chat rooms. I am using a private messenger now, where only the two of us exist. And it's called the love room.

M. Hilado, 23, is a graduate of journalism and a web content editor who is in love and remains hooked online.

THEY SAID

Biggest failure

"Looking back on what happened in Lamitan and the stakes involved, it could be easily considered the single biggest failure in Philippine military history."

—Reporter Howie Severino, describing the siege on a Lamitan hospital from where the Abu Sayyaf managed to escape with most of its hostages

Same forum

"If they did not recognize the authority of the high court, why did they ask it to rule on the issue in the first place?"

—Sen. Francis Pangilinan, dismissing the impeachment complaint of supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada

Unafraid

"I am used to being booted out for sticking to my principles."

—Vice President Teofisto Guingona, suggesting one possible consequence of his decision to oppose charter change after Lakas-CMD strongly pushed for it

Better role for US

"It is clear that Americans want to help us run this country. Instead of asking them to come in as warriors, why don't we ask them to come in as diplomats to lay down the foundations for peace in Mindanao?"

—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, welcoming US mediation in the Mindanao conflict

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PPI

Can Pagdanganan feel the farmers' hunger?

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

I WAS witness to what happened last Wednesday, June 4, 2003. I arrived at the protest camp of the Task Force Mapalad farmers at around 2:20 p.m. I was to accompany them for a dialogue between them and Agrarian Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan.

The secretary arrived at around 4:30 with his aides and assistants. The farmers started shouting at him. The secretary repeatedly addressed each farmer as "Boss" and added: "*Paglilingkuran kita. Ano ba ang gusto mo? Paglilingkuran kita.*" This did not stop the farmers from raising their voices even more.

When the farmers demanded, "Will you install us now?" the secretary helplessly admitted: "It is difficult." He asked them to give him until August to do it .

"Why don't you file cases against landlords who are blocking the implementation of agrarian reform by hiring goons and blue guards to prevent the installation of the farmer beneficiaries?" insisted one of the farmers.

"Governor Maranon is difficult," he replied. "The situation in Negros is not simple. We need more time for the implementation of CARP in Negros."

The heated exchange between the secretary and the farmers was really just the tip of a boiling social volcano. Agrarian reform in the Philippines is nearly a dismal failure. The Negros case remains a "cat and mouse" situation. The Negros landowners who comprise a tiny fraction of the population have land, money, guns and the support of national and local political leaders. Even if there are honest and conscientious DAR local officers, they are ineffectual and remain hostage to the realties of national and local business and political interests.

There are only 11 months left before the presidential elections in 2004. What can be done during the remaining months of Pagdanganan at the Department of Agrarian Reform? One of two things: Either he chooses to do what he is supposed to do by implementing the law or he can play politics. In this country of grays and confusing rainbow colors of alliances and coalitions, black and white in the implementation of law gives hope. Is Pagdanganan with the farmers or with the big landowners?

The farmers have reached their limit. They have begun their hunger strike. Can he feel their anger? Does he know their hunger?

—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES,**
Gomburza

Hoodlums in robes are nothing new

THIS refers to your editorial "Name-calling" last May 29.

As a court reporter of the pre-martial law Manila Times, I already knew the existence of "terrorists in robes."

The problem of many judges, fiscals and lawyers is that they are not seen to be competent, fair and honest. For example, if the judge is a fraternity member and the defense lawyer is also a member of the same fraternity, you can be sure that the decision will be in favor of his "brod." That is why I would strongly suggest that once appointed to office, justices or fiscals should immediately renounce their fraternity membership.

I know many lawyers who abandoned the legal profession because many justices and judges decide not on the basis of evidence and law. I also suggest that lawyers appointed to the bench should pass a test more rigid than the bar examinations. In this way, we can be certain that justices and judges are competent. For they might have passed the bar examinations though luck or through connections. Bar examination scandals do exist.

Some judges can also be *bastos*. They reprimand in open court young lawyers who make a mistake by asking, "Where did you graduate?" or suggesting that he go back to law school.

Worse are some judges who call a lawyer and tell him to write the decision.

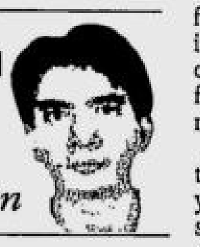
Some judges solicit funds from lawyers appearing in their courts so they can entertain visitors from Manila. And of course, the judges will decide in favor of lawyers who give entertainment money.

What is important is transparency. As a court reporter of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, I know judges in non-jury cases hand down their decisions in open court immediately after the prosecution and the defense rest their case. Of course, the decision will be put in writing later. Why can't our judges do the same?

—**OSCAR LANDICHO,**
2 Goodenia Court, Voyage Point,
NSW, Sydney, Australia

Drug-crazed testing

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

FINALLY, with allegations that several of our star basketball players were found positive in tests for drugs, people are asking questions about how reliable these procedures are.

About two years ago, when the Land and Transportation Office (LTO) began requiring drug tests for driving license applications and renewals, I wrote an article questioning the utility of such tests and predicting the mandatory procedure would lead only to corruption.

But no one seemed to listen. I suspect this was because people believed the LTO's claim that the tests would bar "drug addicts" from getting behind the wheel and make our roads safer. That's sheer nonsense. Even if the tests could effectively weed out drug dependents (and I will question that), the number of accidents wouldn't decrease because we'd still have drivers who don't know how to drive or don't know what the rules or who, because they are some congressman's son, wouldn't care less what the rules are.

If drug intoxication ever came into the picture for accidents, it would probably be alcohol rather than one of the prohibited drugs, but we don't do tests for alcohol when reckless drivers are apprehended, even if there are accurate and low-cost tests available.

We're easy on alcohol, and pretend we're hard on prohibited drugs. We're made to pay P300—more than a day's wage for many Filipino professional drivers—for a test that is intended only to screen. Urine samples are taken, hopefully from the driver rather than from a paid "volunteer" or his pet dog (I am not joking—there are ways of doing that) and subjected to either thin-layer chromatography (now considered antiquated in the United States) or an immunoassay.

In the United States, the drug screen takes several hours, or even as long as a day, to process, which makes me very suspicious of the way the LTO's drug labs have been doing the tests. I observed the procedure in one LTO branch offering an express processing center for renewals and found that people were getting their results about an hour after samples were taken.

Human frailties aside, the drug screen is problematic because it can yield both false negatives and false positives.

Let's deal first with the false positives. Even if you don't use prohibited drugs, your test can come out positive if you took certain legal drugs or food substances with chemical structures similar to those of the prohibited ones. For example, progesterone, a female hormone found in contraceptives and drugs for menopause, can give a false positive when testing for anti-depressants. Even poppy seeds found in cakes can sometimes cause a false positive result, suggesting the use of opium.

Shabu or methamphetamine has many chemical "cousins," all legal amphetamines or amphetamine-like substances found in cold remedies and appetite suppressants. One of the basketball players claimed he'd used a nasal decongestant which might have caused a cross-reaction, prompting the Department of Health to clarify that none of the locally approved medicines would cause cross-reactions. But our health officials seem to forget that you can buy all sorts of imported, unapproved drugs from natural foods stores, *tiangge* stalls and even beauty parlors (especially those Bangkok pills used for dieting, which contain amphetamines).

False positives are not common, but they do occur, which is why a positive result in the drug screen means nothing. In US courts, such results would be thrown out. A positive result in a drug screen only means the urine sample has to be subjected to a confirmatory test involving gas chromatography (which still gives false positives) or gas chromatography combined with mass spectrum detection (GCMS)

The PBA says they used these GCMS tests for their players, which is fine but which only underscores the need to be realistic about all these drug tests. Again, if I may focus on the LTO, the P300 we pay is only for drug screening. Those found positive go on to pay P600 for a drug confirmatory test. Those who are found negative, well, are probably negative.

Probably? Yup. Besides false positives, the drug screening can also yield false negatives, meaning a person can be a drug user and still come out negative. This is because the urine tests cannot detect low levels of prohibited drugs. For methamphetamines, the period for detection is only one to three days, meaning a shabu user can stay off the drug for three days and pass the LTO test. So much for weeding out drug users.

There are more reliable tests that can detect low levels of drugs and involve the use of hair or saliva, but these cost from $40 to $60 each. I certainly hope the LTO doesn't hatch up another drug-crazed scheme to milk the public with these expensive tests. I can imagine all kinds of new scams erupting, including hair or saliva donated by the ever loyal family dog.

Certainly, there is a place for drug testing. It can be conducted randomly (I presume this means without prior announcement) as the PBA did, to catch drug users off guard. But such testing also needs to be conducted with great caution. The drug tests do not tell us how long or how often someone uses the prohibited drugs, so allegations of drug dependence are dangerous. If there are players who are hooked, then suspend them and have them go through rehab, but publicizing their names does nothing for the player, or for the public. I can imagine young people talking among themselves, "Hey, look, even if you're on shabu you can be a good basketball player."

This drug testing mania has to stop. We can test every Filipino every three or four days and still face a serious drug problem unless we work on the drug trade itself. Drug trafficking thrives because it is protected by government officials and law enforcers from the national down to the barangay levels, sometimes by the very ones who call for mandatory drug testing. No wonder our politicians, police officers, why I hear even priests, are now volunteering to take the drug tests. These courageous men probably know what the tests can't do.

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Your child will learn to express himself/herself verbally with phonics and pencil-control exercises as a precursor to learning reading and writing.

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Your child's self-esteem will develop with music, dance, and movement. His self-identity will be cultivated as he finds his own place in the world with meaningful activities such as science experiments, gardening, and nature exploration. His/her appreciation for good health and nutrition will be nurtured with cookery and snack time.

WANTED TEACHERS
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- Not more than 25 years old
- Pleasing personality
- Minimum of two (2) years experience

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We maintain a low teacher-student ratio to allow teachers to give one-on-one attention and be responsive to your child's needs.
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50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

11

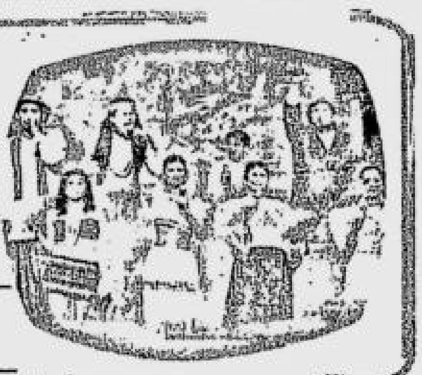
10 June

LUCKY TO HAVE LUIS sa continuing 1st anniversary celebration ng No. 1 Comedy Show!
Sa much-awaited na balik-bisita ni **LUIS MANZANO**, may "Santos" pang kasama.

OK FINE, WHATEVER
Tonight after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

12

11 June



Sugod mga **KLASMEYTS** sa isang mapagpalayang araw ng katatawanan!
Kasama ng tropa si **BELINDA BRIGHT**.

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

KLASMEYTS Coed Na!
Wednesday after "Whattamen"

13

12 June

Dahil Araw ng Kalayaan, pag-uusapan ng panalong tandem ni **KRIS** and **KORINA** ang "freedom" in its countless shapes and forms.

MORNING GIRLS with Kris & Korina
Weekdays • 10:30 AM

14

12 June

Bibigyang-buhay ni **VHONG NAVARRO** ang makulay na buhay ng veteran radio entertainment personality na si **TITA SWARDING**.

MAALAALA MO KAYA
Thursday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

15

13 June

Isang kakaiba at masayang pagkilala ni **Ms. T** sa unang lalaki nating minahal. At no less than Comedy King **DOLPHY** at kanyang mga anak ang bibisita!

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

TEYSI
Weekdays • 8:00 AM

16

13 June

Engaged na pala si **DAO MING SI**.
Paano na si **SHAN CAI**?

METEOR GARDEN
Weekdays before "TV Patrol"

17

13 June

Gagawa ng hakbang ang hadlang sa pag-iibigan ni Christian at Ara.

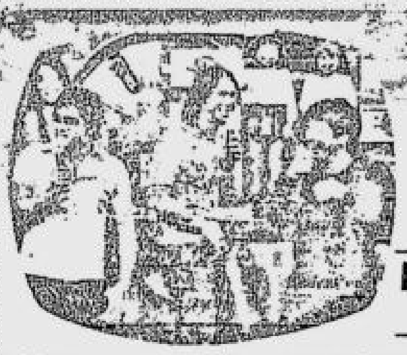
SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS
Weeknights after "Darating Ang Umaga"

Dahil 50 years na ang Philippine television,
araw-araw may sorpresang hatid
ang mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

Naka-kalahati na tayo.
25 more ways to go...
so keep watching!

18

14 June



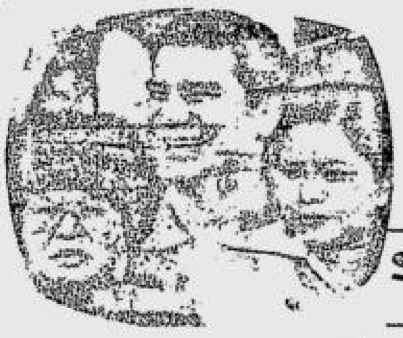
May blow-out ang barkada kay kapatid na **JOHN** kasi birthday niya!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN!

MASAYANG TANGHALI BAYAN
Monday to Saturday • 12:00 NN

19

14 June



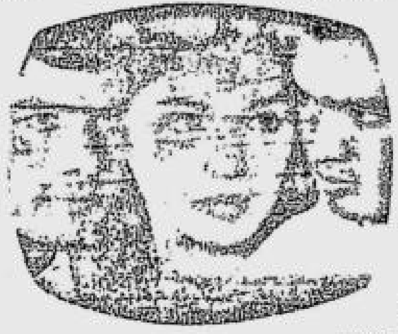
Sampung kaabang-abang at eksklusibong pasabog, ilalantad!

MAY IBUBUNYAG!

S2: SHOWBIZ SABADO
Saturday • 2:30 PM

20

14 June



Home run na ba si Winston kay Meg?
Out na kaya si Lance?

BUTTERCUP
Saturday • 8:30 PM

21

15 June

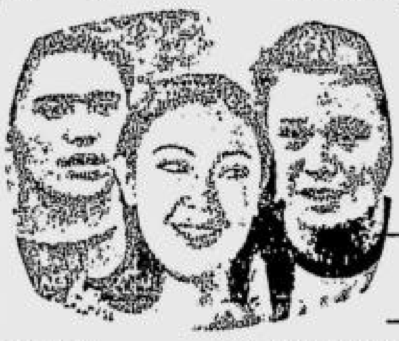
It's the first of three parties as **CAMILLE PRATS** turns 18!
May kasunod pa sa ARRIBA! ARRIBA! on June 21 at sa special coverage ng debut niya sa June 27.

CAMILLE AT 18

A.S.A.P. MANIA
Sunday • 12:00 NN

22

15 June



May bagong himig ang pag-ibig para kay Badong, George at Fonzy.

TABING ILOG
Sunday • 2:30 PM

2

15 June

Si **JOHN PRATS** ay ang spoiled brat na si Neo.
Gintong aral ang ituturo sa kanya ni Kevin.

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

HOME ALONG DA RILES
Sunday • 8:30 PM

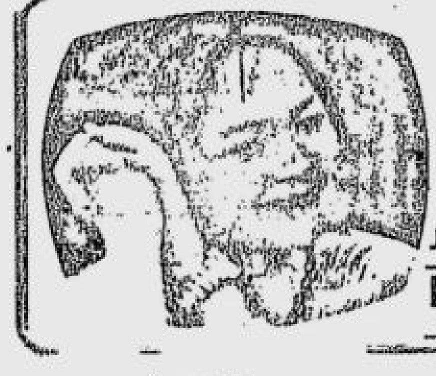
24

15 June

Ellen Ripley (**SIGOURNEY WEAVER**) defies death but has to live with her alien streak. **WINONA RYDER** also stars in this fourth chapter of the blockbuster "Alien" series.

ALIEN RESURRECTION
Sunday • 9:30 PM

16 June



May hahanapin pa ba basta't kasama siya?

JUDY ANN SANTOS in

BIDA SI MISTER, BIDA SI MISIS
Monday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

50 YEARS

ABS-CBN
TELEVISION
SINCE 1953

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US insists Iraq weapons will be found

WASHINGTON—Bush administration officials say they are confident proof will emerge that Saddam Hussein possessed the chemical and biological weapons cited as a key reason to invade Iraq.

"We have thousands and thousands and thousands of documents that we've not yet gone through," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday. More sites need to be investigated and many more Iraqis must be interviewed about Saddam's weapons capabilities, she added.

"We will put together this whole picture, but the preponderance of evidence is that this was a regime that had the capability, that had unaccounted-for stockpiles and unaccounted-for weapons," Rice told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Weeks of searches in Iraq by military experts have not validated the administration's portrayal of Iraq's cache of weapons. Alleged stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons have not turned up, nor has significant evidence of a nuclear weapons program.

The discovery of two Iraqi truck trailers, equipped with fermenters, is the strongest evidence yet, the Bush administration contends, that Saddam had a biological weapons program. No actual weapons have been found.

All this has raised questions about whether the intelligence that helped lead to the war was inaccurate or overplayed to generate support for an invasion.

The director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, acknowledged last week that he had no hard evidence of Iraqi chemical weapons last fall but he believed Iraq had a program to produce them.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said parts of the DIA report were taken out of context in news reports.

"The sentence that has gotten all of the attention, in this two-page, unclassified summary, talked about not having the evidence of current facilities and current stockpiling," he told "Fox News Sunday."

"The very next sentence says that it had information that weapons had been dispersed to units. Chemical weapons had been dispersed to units."

Because Iraq concealed its banned weapons so well, it will take time to find them, Powell said. But he said, "I'm sure more evidence and more proof will come forward as we go down this road."

Powell said his prewar statement to the United Nations—that there was no doubt Saddam was capable of producing and using such weapons—had been vetted for days by intelligence analysts. "We spent four days and nights out at the CIA, making sure that whatever I said was supported by our intelligence holdings," he said.

Rice said the justification for war was grounded in reams of information from the CIA, intelligence reports from abroad, material from UN weapons inspectors and efforts by Saddam's government to conceal what it was doing.

She also pointed to then-President Bill Clinton's statement on Dec. 16, 1998, to explain missile strikes he ordered against military and security targets in Iraq. *AP*

Toyota Unleashes the New Vios

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation announces today the introduction of the new premium compact sedan, the Vios, to the Philippine market. Toyota's all-new vehicle boasts of a contemporary body design, a spacious interior, world-class safety features and a new engine powered by the VVT-i technology. With all its performance features and new stylish design, the Vios is targeted as a lifestyle vehicle for the young market. Toyota is also launching an aggressive marketing campaign for the Vios featuring the most famous celebrity today, Britney Spears.

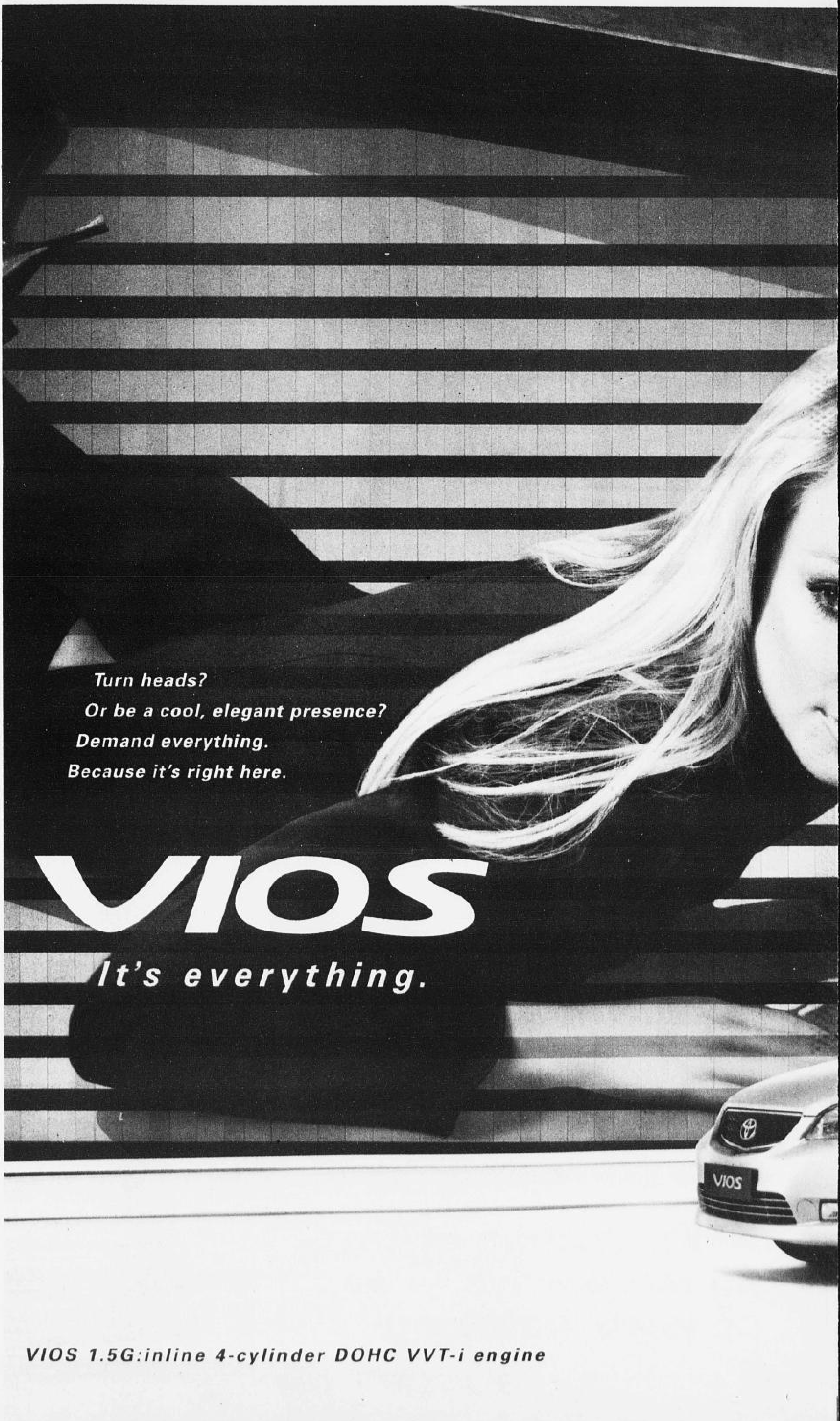
The Vios, which means "to move forward", epitomizes the all-new attitude and concept behind Toyota's new compact sedan. It manifests the look, feel, and performance of a modern vehicle and has been designed to fit and reflect the stylish and dynamic lifestyle of today's generation. The sleek multi-reflector headlamps and the front grille already add to the distinction of the Vios' youthful character. Its all-new body design creates a sporty look while the accented door sections surrounding its tires and color-keyed side protection moldings emanate a fresh and yet, a classy design. Furthermore, sharply slanted rear fender and protruding rear bumpers provide the sporty profile to the Vios.

This all-new compact sedan offers state of the art aerodynamic design that reduces wind noise, improves acceleration and maneuverability, and ensures better fuel efficiency. With a body design that yields a coefficient of drag (CD) of a low 0.30 similar to a Lexus GS300, the Vios promises a pleasurable driving experience.

The new Vios will be available in three variants- the 1.5G A/T, 1.5G M/T and the 1.3E M/T. Both 1500 and 1300 variants are powered by Toyota's VVT-i technology - Variable Valve Timing with Intelligence. With the VVT-i, the new Vios delivers higher power with its optimized valve timing that delivers powerful torque through low-to-medium engine rpms. The VVT-i engine also uses fuel more effectively keeping waste to a minimum, thus resulting to efficient combustion that lowers exhaust emissions.

The Vios is also integrated with Toyota's Super ECT (Electronic Controlled Technology) that allows the automatic transmission to adjust to one's driving style for increased power, optimal efficiency and comfort. Super ECT ensures high efficiency gear train that provides enough torque capacity to handle the high power of the Vios' engine. It also delivers high precision hydraulic control that optimizes smooth response to gear change.

The Toyota Vios provides world-class safety features to all passengers by providing great visibility, child lock protection, and the latest in GOA (Global Outstanding Assessment) body, which are all critical to safe driving. In addition to its overall performance in driving, turning, stopping, and lane changing, the Vios' seats are designed to reduce fatigue and provide great visibility to the driver. Added safety features have been incorporated to this new Toyota. Its high mount stop lamp ensures that the driver behind notices one's braking. Front foglamps are built for effective driving through rain or mist. Another safety feature is the Vios' Child Lock Protection that when



US health officials battle monkeypox outbreak

MADISON, Wisconsin—A virus similar to smallpox apparently jumped from an imported African rat to pet prairie dogs, infecting at least four people—possibly dozens—in the disease's first appearance in the Western Hemisphere.

Eighteen people in Wisconsin are suspected of suffering from the monkeypox virus and four are confirmed, said the City of Milwaukee health commissioner, Dr. Seth Foldy. At least 11 more cases in Indiana and three in Illinois are suspected.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Saturday the prairie dogs likely were infected with the virus by a giant Gambian rat, which is indigenous to African countries, at a suburban Chicago pet distributor.

Thirteen of the people suspected of having the virus in Wisconsin were around prairie dogs, while the other apparently contracted it after handling a sick rabbit that had been around a prairie dog. Foldy said it didn't appear anyone contracted the virus from another person.

Monkeypox in humans is not usually fatal, but causes rashes, fevers and chills. Doctors initially feared they might be facing smallpox, which causes similar symptoms, but scientists quickly eliminated that possibility after discovering the link between people and prairie dogs. Monkeypox's incubation period is about 12 days.

Two patients at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in Milwaukee were in satisfactory condition Sunday, hospital spokesperson Mark McLaughlin said. The two were isolated and doctors wore caps, gowns and masks whenever they interacted with them. Other suspected victims were treated and released.

The CDC said a preliminary investigation showed the virus was transmitted to humans as a result of close contact with the infected prairie dogs, although scientists were unable to exclude the possibility of human-to-human transmission.

Health officials are trying to contain the virus' spread by preventing more animals from becoming infected. Prairie dogs, usually found in southwestern and western states, aren't indigenous to Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection issued a warning telling people not to dump prairie dogs into the wild, agency spokesperson Donna Gilson said. The agency also told state humane societies to isolate any prairie dogs people bring in.

Monkeypox has been found mostly in west African nations, Foldy said. The human mortality rate in Africa has ranged from one to 10 percent.

But Foldy said the virus might be less lethal in the United States because Americans are typically better nourished and medical technology is far more advanced.

"We have isolation, soap, running water, sterile dressing materials, we have washing machines," Foldy said. "These are all things that have reduced the prevalence of germs that are spreadable by person-to-person contact."

The prairie dogs were sold by a Milwaukee animal distributor in May to two pet shops in the Milwaukee area and during a pet "swap meet" in northern Wisconsin, the CDC said.

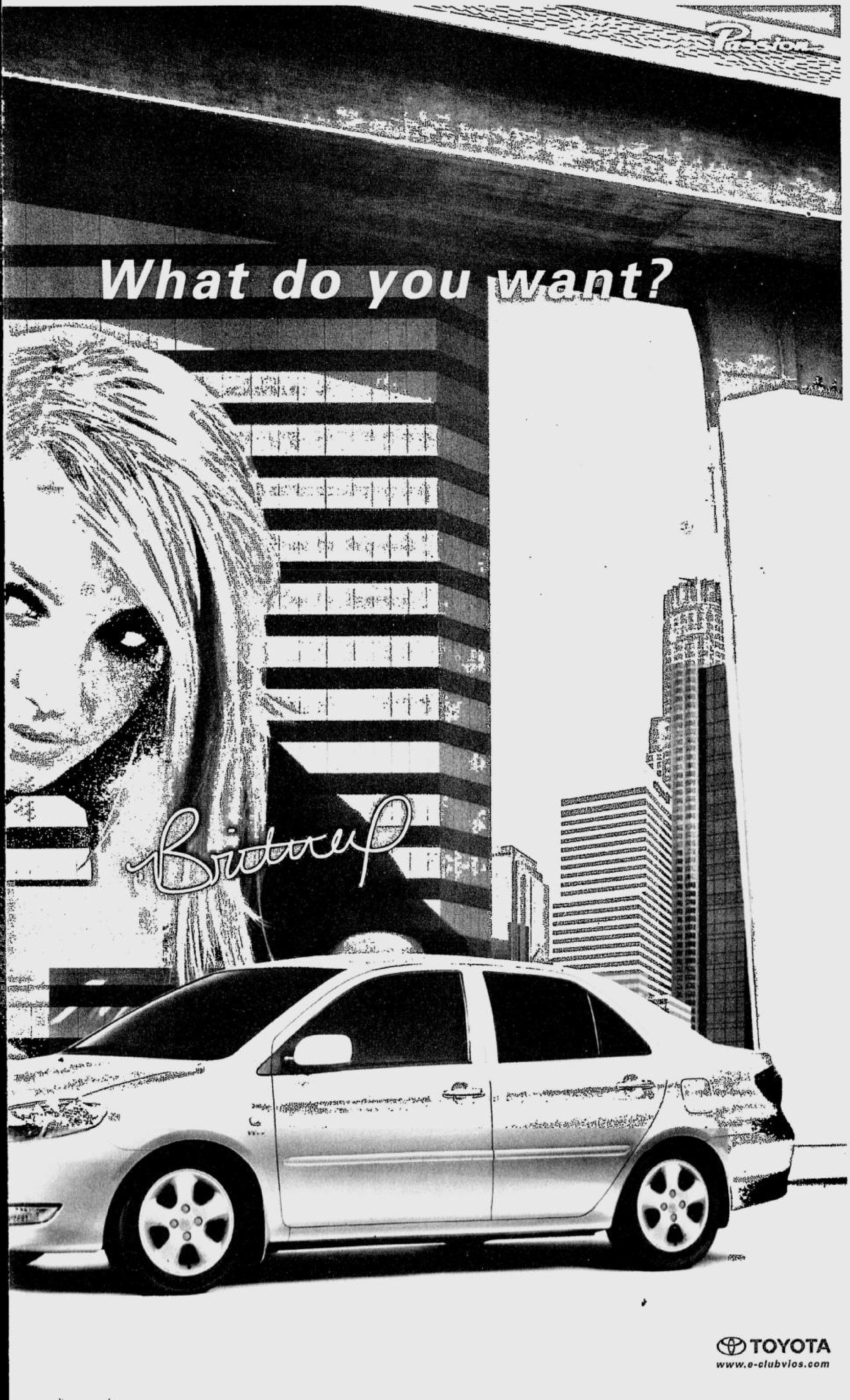
The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services issued an emergency order Friday banning the sale, importation and display of prairie dogs. State agriculture officials plan to publish an emergency rule this week, Gilson said.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has prohibited Phil's Pocket Pets, a pet distributor in Villa Park, Illinois where the prairie dogs may have been infected, from selling animals until the health of its animals is verified.

The owner of Phil's has given Illinois officials a list of all who bought prairie dogs, Gambian rats or other exotic animals since April 15, the Illinois Department of Public Health said. No telephone listing could be found for the store Sunday.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Saturday signed an executive order banning the sale, importation or display of prairie dogs or Gambian rats. Veterinarians were urged to report suspected cases of the disease.

Prairie dogs are burrowing herbivores that are commonly found in western rangeland, but their popularity as pets has grown in recent years. Last year 10,000 prairie dogs were shipped out of Texas to become pets, said David Crawford, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Animal Defense, a nonprofit organization that advocates animal freedom. *AP*



activated, allows only door access from the outside and prevents it from accidentally being opened by child passengers.

Fundamental to passive safety is Toyota's world-renowned GOA body. This technology is tested at significantly more stringent standards that would guarantee safety to all passengers. Side door impact beams are provided in all side doors for protection of occupants in case of a side impact.

Passengers are treated to the rich atmosphere and ample space the Vios offers. A spacious interior with an advanced "compact and tall" body shape concept coupled with its long wheelbase and ample height mean more than enough room inside this premium sedan. Extra room is provided by the Vios to allow its driver to have high visibility and upright seating position that ensures maximum comfort, ease of operation and clear visibility. The new Vios' compact rear suspension and other refinements have resulted to a large-capacity trunk that gives enough space for more convenience. This compact sedan has a minimum turning radius of 4.9m that offers good maneuverability not only in narrow streets, but also in tight parking spaces.

The Vios' premium interior exudes modern style and class not found in any compact sedan reflecting a synergy of form and function. Metal accents in the center panel, A/T shift knob, and switch base to both driver's side and its opposite side complement the Vios' stylish two-tone gray interior. Its instrument panel features a rounded design and metallic accents that enhances its advanced, cool, and premium ambience. Comfortable seats of the Vios have the same seat structure as the new Camry providing utmost comfort in any driving condition.

The new Vios is fully equipped with the latest in ergonomic design. The center digital meter with VFD (Vacuum Fluorescent Display) uses large numbers to provide an advanced image and greater visibility. VFD meters, in spite of their distance from the driver, are easier to read, which minimizes driver eye and head movement. The Vios' easy-to-operate audio system and simple dial-type controlled air-conditioning system are strategically placed for convenience and maximum comfort. The reliable TVSS (Toyota Vehicle Security System) is used with the keyless entry system. Premium power features such as power outer mirrors, power windows, and power door locks are all found in the new Vios.

Also included are convenient pockets in handy places such as a large glove box, an upper tray that stores items like sunglasses and other items, a center console storage space that is provided to hold cellular phones while traveling, a center lower console box that stores up to 12 CDs, a large pocket located below the steering wheel, door pockets, front cup holders and rear cup holders that can fit any size of drink, and a seat back pocket on the passenger's side.

Rounding out the new features of the new Vios are different exciting body tones that are available to suit different characters. New colors like Silver Steel, Ember, Subtle Gold, Xtreme Black, Scarlet Fury and Rave Blue are now available for the different variants of the Vios.

The Vios will be available in all Toyota authorized dealers by the first week of June. For now, interested customers can check out www.e-clubvios.com to know more about the exciting probabilities the new Vios will bring to everyday living.

ADVT.

UN envoy 'encouraged' after meeting generals

RANGOON—A UN envoy said he was "encouraged" by his meeting Monday with two top generals in Burma's military government in his bid to secure the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

UN special envoy, Razali Ismail, however, could not confirm whether he'd be able to see Suu Kyi, who was detained on May 30 after a bloody clash involving her supporters in northern Burma. The regime has refused to produce the Nobel peace laureate in public or divulge her whereabouts.

Razali told reporters he held a one-hour meeting with junta's second- and third-ranking generals at a defense ministry guesthouse.

"I am encouraged by my meeting today with deputy Senior Gen. Maung Aye in the presence of Gen. Khin Nyunt," Razali said.

"I hope I will be able to fulfill one or two of my objectives of my visit here," he said, but refused to confirm if he was given assurances on Suu Kyi's release.

Asked if he would be allowed to see her, Razali said: "That's all I can say."

He said he would meet ambassadors of some countries later Monday before his scheduled departure on Tuesday at the end of his five-day mission.

Exiled opposition figures in Thailand say Suu Kyi may have received head injuries in the May 30 violence, which they say left up to 70 people dead. The government says that four people had died, that Suu Kyi wasn't hurt and that she was being held in a "safe place."

The regime has since shut offices of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, rounded up party members and put other NLD leaders under house arrest.

Before Razali's meeting with Maung Aye, it was expected that he would get a clear answer from the junta on Suu Kyi, according to Hkun Tun Oo, a leader of Burma's Shan minority who met the UN envoy on Sunday.

AN ACTIVIST shouts slogans demanding the release of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a rally outside the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok on Monday.

The US state department says the May 30 violence appears to have been an ambush orchestrated by junta supporters, and that the events suggest the junta has ended efforts at national reconciliation, launched most recently in late 2000 and brokered by Razali in a series of visits.

Suu Kyi's detention has drawn sharp criticism from around the world and threats of more economic sanctions from the United States.

However, the junta has remained defiant. Khin Nyunt said over the weekend that Burma—one of Asia's poorest countries—would continue to strive to become a "peaceful, developed and democratic nation" with or without foreign assistance.

Since the crackdown, Washington has tightened visa restrictions against the Burma regime, to cover all officials of the government-linked social organization, the Union Solidarity Development Association, said to have orchestrated rallies against Suu Kyi.

The restrictions previously barred entry only to senior government officials and their immediate families.

The government of US President George W. Bush also said it wanted Congress to impose more economic sanctions against Burma and was reviewing legislation to prohibit imports from the impoverished country. The United States already bans new investments in Burma by US companies.

Tight media controls and the remote location of the May 30 clash have made it difficult to confirm independently what happened. The junta blames the NLD for the violence, saying it was sparked when Suu Kyi's motorcade drove through a crowd of thousands of government supporters.

Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her nonviolent struggle for democracy, spent six years under house arrest in 1989-95. *AP*

North Korea says it must have 'nuclear deterrent'

SEOUL—North Korea said Monday that it must develop "a nuclear deterrent" if the United States does not give up what the communist country considers a hostile stance.

The statement by North Korea's state-run media marked the first time Pyongyang has publicly referred to nuclear rather than physical deterrence—signifying an escalation in the harsh language it routinely uses.

The North's official KCNA news agency said Pyongyang was willing to ease US concerns over its nuclear programs if Washington changed its stance.

"But if the US keeps threatening the DPRK with nukes instead of abandoning its hostile policy toward Pyongyang, the DPRK will have no option but to build up a nuclear deterrent force," KCNA said, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea has emphasized the importance it sees in using military force to stave off a possible US attack in the wake of the war against Iraq.

On Monday, the North said its "intention to build up a nuclear deterrent force is not aimed to threaten and blackmail others." Rather, the buildup is part of a long-term plan to reduce its conventional weapons arsenal and funnel resources and funds to the economy and other programs that benefit its citizens, it said.

The North's comments came as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun repeated Monday that his country would never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea.

Addressing Japanese lawmakers at the end of his first official visit to Tokyo, Roh acknowledged that negotiating an end to the standoff over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program would take time.

"I am not hoping that this issue can be solved in a day or two," Roh said.

North Korea says it has the right to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself, but has never publicly said it is developing a nuclear arsenal. It has said it would give up its nuclear programs in exchange for economic aid and US security guarantees.

The United States says it has no plans to invade North Korea, but has not ruled out the military option.

In recent weeks, the North has stepped up its anti-US rhetoric, criticizing the US-South Korea and US-Japan summits in May. *AP*

Foreigners start leaving Monrovia

MONROVIA, Liberia—Military helicopters began evacuating Americans and Europeans from Liberia's besieged capital at dawn Monday, ferrying Westerners out of embassy compounds to a French ship waiting in the Atlantic.

The evacuations came as Liberian soldiers reported more fighting on the western edge of the city, where rebels were trying to push into the capital to oust President Charles Taylor. Explosions sounded in the distance.

The first helicopters took off from the white-walled, barbed-wire topped compound of the European Union.

Aid agency workers, ducking to avoid debris sent flying from the twirling blades, ran down a rocky hillside and climbed into French military Cougar helicopters.

European Union forces stood guard with heavy weapons on the palm-overgrown hillside above the Atlantic Ocean, as helicopters spun off over the steel-gray Atlantic.

"We can't work and we had to leave," said Isabelle deBourning, of Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), running for the helicopter. "I hope it will be quick."

A total of 91 international residents of Liberia were to be evacuated from the EU compound, said David Parker, acting head of the EU mission in Liberia.

They included foreign staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross and UN agencies, Parker said.

The European Union operates the water plants for this war-ravaged city of one million, now crowded with refugees, and would try to keep a core staff here as long as possible, Parker said.

Lebanese families, who make up much of the merchant class of west Africa, also were expected to fly out from the European compound.

Next door at the US Embassy, about 100 Americans were awaiting evacuation, after gathering overnight.

When most Americans left, Ambassador John Blaney and a coterie of Marine guards were to remain behind at the embassy, US authorities said.

At the EU compound, European troop reinforcements piled out of each helicopter that landed to fly out the foreign civilians. Troops in green camouflage jumped out with bazookas and heavy machine guns, in pieces for assembly.

The evacuation had been planned at least since the weekend, when rebels fighting to oust Taylor made at least two pushes into the city.

Liberian forces and local radio reported more fighting on the west side at dawn, as the evacuations began. Explosions sounded occasionally from that direction.

Liberians, residents of a nation founded by freed American slaves, came out of their shacks and watched silently as the helicopters flew back and forth across the seascape in front of them.

As fighting reportedly renewed, families bundled mattresses on their heads and rushed back to the US Embassy complex, where Americans already had refused them entrance during weekend fighting. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Poland votes to join EU

WARSAW—Poles on Monday celebrated their overwhelming "Yes" vote in a weekend referendum on joining the European Union, leaving their communist past behind them to lead up to 10 newcomers into the rich Western bloc next year. Poland, whose 39 million people outnumber the combined populations of the other nine candidates, was the biggest worry for European leaders who agreed to expand the bloc eastward across the old Cold War divide in May 2004. In the end, hopes of a better future in the EU—offering foreign jobs, study and easy travel—prevailed over fears among the rural poor that they would lose out in the EU marketplace. *Reuters*

Abbas says he'll not use force

RAMALLAH, West Bank—The Palestinian prime minister said Monday he will not use force against militant groups under any circumstances, despite their stated determination to derail a US-backed peace plan with attacks on Israelis, including two weekend shootings that killed five soldiers. The prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, also defended himself against complaints at home that he has been too conciliatory to Israel, including in a speech at a Mideast summit last week, and that Israel has given little in return. Abbas said he has coordinated every move with Yasser Arafat—a barb at the veteran leader who said in public last week that the summit yielded no achievements. *AP*

Taiwan struggles with new SARS outbreak

TAIPEI—The chief of a Taiwanese hospital at the center of a new SARS outbreak that has set back the island's fight against the virus resigned Monday, while Singapore told factories to check workers for fevers daily to guard against a second wave of infections there. In China's capital, readers lined up for the reopening of a library closed during the height of the city's crisis in April when authorities also closed schools, cinemas and gymnasiums. New cases of the disease in Beijing have fallen into the single digits in recent weeks. *AP*

Morality campaign suspended

KUALA LUMPUR—Authorities in a Malaysian city have suspended a morality campaign that fined couples for hugging and kissing in public parks, after an outcry in this mostly Muslim country. The measures, meant to keep the northern city of Ipoh "morally clean," have been stopped temporarily following wide criticism by newspapers, human rights groups and opposition leaders, the mayor of Ipoh city said Monday. "We're sad that our good intentions . . . have been misinterpreted," Mayor Sirajuddin Salleh said. "We simply believe it's not right for Malaysians to kiss and hug excessively in front of others." *AP*

Australia plans 'fat tax'

SYDNEY—Increasingly portly Australians may be slapped with a "fat tax" on chips, hamburgers and soft drinks as obesity balloons to record levels. A recent national survey of over 11,000 people by the Australian Medical Association showed almost 60 percent of Australians were overweight or obese, more than double the rate 20 years ago. *Reuters*

Chavez: I am not a communist

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez described himself on Sunday as "ugly" and "sometimes uncouth" but said he was not a communist and did not believe communism could work in his oil-rich country. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 10, 2003
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 1:18-22
Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

Salt must be so good we sprinkle on food with wanton generosity even against medical advice. And what should we say about light? A short power failure causes us untold consternation if not outright stress! When Jesus compares us to salt and light, he tells us how good we are and we cannot allow the world not to enjoy our goodness. The conduct of our lives must influence the world for good. Our deeds must make life a little less burdensome for others. Our words must comfort, encourage, and build up. Our thoughts must be selfless and kind. We must make a difference no matter how little, no matter how confined. Jesus expects it of us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Prejudicial question—A prejudicial question is defined as that which arises in a case, the resolution of which is a logical antecedent of the issue involved therein, and the cognizance of which pertains to another tribunal. The prejudicial question must be determinative of the case before the court but the jurisdiction to try and resolve the question must be lodged in another court or tribunal. It is a question based on a fact distinct and separate from the crime but so intimately connected with it that it determines the guilt or innocence of the accused. For a civil action to be considered prejudicial to a criminal case as to cause the suspension of the criminal proceedings until the final resolution of the civil action, the following requisites must be present: (1) the civil case involves facts intimately related to those upon which the criminal prosecution would be based; (2) in the resolution of the issue or issues raised in the civil action, the guilt or innocence of the accused would necessarily be determined; and (3) jurisdiction to try said question must be lodged in another tribunal. If both civil and criminal cases have similar issues or the issue in one is intimately related to the issues raised in the other, then a prejudicial question would likely exist, provided the other element or characteristic is satisfied. It must appear not only that the civil case involves the same facts upon which the criminal prosecution would be based, but also that the resolution of the issues raised in the civil action would be necessarily determinative of the guilt or innocence of the accused. If the resolution of the issue in the civil action will not determine the criminal responsibility of the accused in the criminal action based on the same facts, or there is no necessity that the civil case be determined first before taking up the criminal case, therefore, the civil case does not involve a prejudicial question. In the case at bar, we find no prejudicial question that would justify the suspension of the proceedings in the criminal case. A ruling of the court in the civil case that PBI should not be paid the purchase price plus damages will not necessarily absolve respondent of liability in the criminal case where his guilt may still be established under penal laws as determined by other evidence. Moreover, neither is there a prejudicial question if the civil and the criminal action can, according to law, proceed independently of each other. Under Rule 111, Section 3 of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, in the cases provided in Articles 32, 33, 34 and 2176 of the Civil Code, the independent civil action may be brought by the offended party. It shall proceed independently of the criminal action and shall require only a preponderance of evidence. In no case, however, may the offended party recover damages twice for the same act or omission charged in the criminal action. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Consing, G.R. No. 148193. Jan. 16]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

STOP SARS ATTACK

DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

TUESDAY 10 June 2003

DOH HOSTS MULTI-SECTORAL ANTI-SARS CONVENTION

Top government leaders, heads of industry, academicians, scientists, health professionals and prominent figures in various disciplines will converge at the World Trade Center this weekend to participate in the Anti-SARS National Scientific Convention organized by the Department of Health.

Taking place on the long Independence Day weekend, the convention also celebrates the country's freedom from SARS, an achievement that requires the continued participation and support of the many stakeholders, in both domestic and global scenes. Highlighting the second day of the meet is videoconferencing session between top representatives of Health Ministries of Hongkong, Vietnam, China and the Philippines.

The three day meeting aims to share best practices in SARS prevention among various countries, as well as empower Filipinos in the fight against this disease by updating medical and paramedical professionals, scientists, students, and other stakeholders on the various issues surrounding the disease. Among these issues are interim clinical guidelines, epidemiology of the disease, hospital infection control, laboratory diagnosis, clinical and radiological presentation and treatment, as well as international issues on SARS control.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - June 9, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	60
total discharged	58
presently admitted (June 9, 2003)	2
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

Question.

When does one sick of SARS become communicable?

Answer.

People who were exposed to SARS cases but do not show signs and symptoms of SARS cannot infect others, but people who have signs and symptoms such as fever and cough can already spread the disease.

SARS HOTLINES: 741-7048 / 743-1937 or Type MED<space>SARS then send to 2333 for Globe subscribers or 257 for Smart users or text HOTLINE SARS <space> (Message) then send to 2960 or EMAIL sars@doh.gov.ph

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Sexual raps vs Cebu priest junked

**By Suzzane B. Salva
and Jhunnex Napallacan**
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The City Prosecutor's Office yesterday junked the complaint filed against an Augustinian priest who was accused of molesting a former altar boy.

Acting City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa approved the comment of a reviewing prosecutor, overturning the earlier resolution of Assistant Prosecutor Rogelio del Prado last May 26 that sought to indict Fr. Apolinario "Jing" Mejorada for acts of lasciviousness.

Reviewing Prosecutor Nicolas Sellon noted that Dong (not his real name) was after money, not public apology, as evidenced by the demand letter he sent to the priest on December 1999, seeking P10 million.

"It must be emphasized that the law should not be used as a tool to unjustly enrich at the expense of another. Finally, he who comes to court must come with clean hands," he added.

Although Dong was 17 when the alleged molestations happened, he said the complainant could not qualify himself as a "child" who was entitled to the protection of the law.

"(Dong's) subsequent manipulation of the events leading to the huge pay-off of settlement money as well as the circumstances under which the same was asked and given, had indeed seriously damaged his legal standing and/or status as a child," the prosecutor said.

Mejorada, former rector of the Basilica del Sto. Niño, was accused of molesting his four altar boys in separate occasions in 1998.

Only Dong filed separate charges of acts of lasciviousness against the priest before the Cebu City Prosecutor's Office and the Bohol Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

The Prosecutor's office in Bohol dismissed the complaint a few months ago for lack of merit.

Dong claimed that he was 17 when the priest allegedly molested him inside a movie house on Jan. 11, 1998. He was allegedly molested again on Sept. 8, 1998 during the fiesta in Barangay Napo, Loon town, Bohol, the priest's hometown.

In his resolution, Sellon said Dong never took any step to vindicate himself after he was first sexually molested even if he had a chance to do so.

Dong instead went to Mejorada's hometown in Bohol, which Sellon found "very astonishing."

Sellon said Dong did not also take any legal action when the second incident occurred, considering that he would turn 18 on Sept. 20, 1998, 12 days after the incident.

It, however, appeared that Dong did not complain as he had a "long-range plan" to haunt the priest, the prosecutor noted.

Dong, he said, first wrote Mejorada a year and a half after the incident, giving the priest a chance to settle the matter before the victim tapped the services of a lawyer.

Sellon said Mejorada apologized to Dong on Oct. 25, 1999 in the presence a lawyer, Dong's brother and two other alleged victims.

Here, Mejorada openly cried and even kissed Dong's feet, he added. The priest also offered P80,000 to pay for his school and other obligations, which Dong accepted.

"The irony of it all is that, while claiming that there was no apology made in spite of the crying and kissing of the feet, he (Dong) nevertheless accepted the offered money," he said.

In December 1999, Dong sought the assistance of a lawyer in sending a demand letter to Mejorada, seeking P10 million from the priest.

A copy of the demand letter was attached to Mejorada's counter-affidavit, which was submitted to the City Prosecutor's Office.

"Had not this letter been written by a lawyer on behalf of a client, this would have been viewed as pure and simple extortion and may have been punishable under our Revised Penal Code," Sellon noted.

The demand letter, he said, proved fruitful because Mejorada gave Dong P120,000. The money came from the proceeds of the sale of a house and motorcycles.

"What is (of) utmost importance is that this letter completely belies complainant's pretentious claim that what he merely wanted from the respondent was a public apology. As the letter would speak for itself, money is evidently the only consideration," Sellon said.

He added that money was the only reason why it took Dong five years to file the present complaint arising out of an incident that occurred on Jan. 11, 1998.

CWL bats for priests marrying

COTABATO CITY—It's about time Vatican considered allowing priests to have their lifetime mates.

The suggestion came following reports that some members of the Catholic clergy have been sexually linked to women.

"They are just humans like us. They, too, have their weaknesses," said Gemma Peñaflor, business head of the oldest Church-run biweekly here, The Mindanao Cross.

"The Catholic hierarchy should look into the problem of celibacy that has been bogging the reputation of some of our priests," said Juliana Bueno, former president of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) in this city.

"Why can't the Church allow priests to marry, when most of His (Jesus Christ) apostles were family men," Bueno asked. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Boracay casino plan supported

AKLAN officials yesterday said they would not block plans to put up a government-run casino on Boracay Island in Malay town if local leaders wanted it.

In a statement, Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores stressed that allowing the casino to operate was a primary concern of the municipal government and that whatever its decision would be supported by the provincial government.

Earlier, Malay Mayor Ciceron Cawaling expressed support to initiatives by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to operate a casino at the Club Panoly Resorts in the upscale section of the island.

According to the statement, Miraflores' clarification "paves the way" for the start of Pagcor operations. Pagcor has casinos in the cities of Cebu, Davao, Tagaytay, Baguio and Laoag, in the Clark and Subic special economic zones, and in Metro Manila.

Pagcor pledged to limit admission to the Boracay casino only to tourists, it said.

Cawaling said the decision to allow Pagcor to operate was prompted by "economic reasons for Boracay is a top tourist destination, and the projects for social amelioration Pagcor will bring in."

Allowing Pagcor to operate an alternative entertainment to tourists will also raise funds for the construction of school buildings, health centers, street lighting and other social amenities, he said

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School woes: Drenched books, traffic jams

DAGUPAN CITY—Lack of books is one of the usual school opening woes in the country, but this city's dilemma is worsened by the recent typhoon that soaked in flood the supply of textbooks of most public elementary schools.

Aurora Domingo, acting city schools division superintendent, said although school administrators and teachers kept the books in places not usually reached by floodwaters, water level now has become much higher.

"For a week now, the teachers are drying the books under the sun, trying to save them," Domingo said.

The city was one of the areas worst hit by floods caused by tropical storm Chedeng. Dagupan's 24 of 31 villages were affected by floodwater with an average depth of one meter.

Domingo said the division has just received new textbooks from the Department of Education and they have asked for additional books from the city school board.

"But these are not enough to cover the lost books because of floods (sic)," she lamented.

To compensate for the lack of books, teachers have to resort to their ingenuity, by, say, preparing charts and modules.

Domingo also said her division had to contend with the shortage of classrooms and chairs because of increasing enrolment.

"Many parents are enrolling their children in public schools now because of high tuition in private schools, so we need more classrooms and chairs," she said.

The division also expects a 5- to 10-percent increase in Grade 1 enrolment.

She said the Salapingao Elementary School would be needing a building with six classrooms because the school's old building would be demolished soon.

In Pampanga, traffic was heavy in San Fernando City, as more than 30,000 students in 10 private schools attended the first day of the school year.

At the San Fernando Elementary School, about 8,000 students are attending 15 Saturday classes to make up for class suspensions brought about by floods expected in July until November.

The school prepared this contingency plan as officials scrapped the early school opening. Since 1997, students have begun classes two weeks ahead of the regular school opening.

Dr. Elene Herrera, school principal, said the scheme was scrapped because students were rushed into completing the number of school days. Classes at the SFES start on June 16.

In Baguio City, Dr. Virgilio Bautista, president of the University of Baguio, said more foreign students appeared to have enrolled in local universities as the school year opened, compared to the previous semesters when war drums announced American military action in the Middle East.

Baguio hosts up to 1,000 foreign students at a given school period, according to the Bureau of Immigration.

"I now have 110 enrollees, compared to last year's 107, and I am told UB is enrolling 25 new foreign students. It appears that foreign students have started returning to schools that accommodate their religion (sic), and which are not burdened by Muslim-Christian (ideological conflicts that probably beset universities in other nations)," Bautista said.

An educator also said certain provinces attract foreign students because they can negotiate their failing grades.

The source said foreign students unable to graduate from top schools in Metro Manila and in Baguio City go to provincial universities instead, accounting for their sudden distribution across the country.

"Foreign students here are like our own students abroad. They need time to adjust to the language and cultural quirks, and they are often lonely. But once they adjust, they do good in school (sic)," Bautista said.

The police have set up security measures for students.

In Bulacan, only a handful of private and public schools in the provinces started classes yesterday, following a DepEd order moving the school year opening to June 16.

Teofila Villanueva, Bulacan schools superintendent, said teachers, other school personnel and parents on Monday started attending a series of briefings on the prevention of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

No funds for more teachers in C. Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 3,106 elementary and secondary public schools in Central Luzon's seven provinces need around 5,000 teachers, but no one could be hired because the allocation for their salaries had not been included in the 2003 national budget, a regional education official said.

Dr. Ricardo Sibug, Department of Education (DepEd) regional assistant director, said local governments had helped reduce the shortage of teachers (8,106 in 2001) by 20 percent.

Local officials, Sibug said, had drawn the salaries of additional teachers from the local school board fund.

One percent of the real estate property tax paid to provincial, municipal and city governments is allotted to that fund, which was created through Executive Order 189 of former President Corazon Aquino.

The teacher requirements in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga were the highest. San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan alone needs 337 teachers, said a DepEd report.

Last school year, there were 56,918 elementary and secondary teachers in public and private schools in the region. Of this number, at least 43,648 taught in public schools.

Sibug said the shortage of teachers and facilities worsened as enrolment increased last year in public elementary schools by 38,031 pupils and in public high schools by 47,559 students.

He called the 11-percent rise in public-secondary-school enrolment "abnormal," and attributed this to tuition increases in private schools.

Last year, more parents signed up their children in public schools, as private elementary and high schools reported additional enrollees of only 3,555 (2.18 percent) and 508 (.28 percent), respectively.

High student population in the region's public schools had led to a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:80 for secondary levels and 1:60 for elementary levels.

Sibug said Central Luzon, including Aurora, needs 7,664 classrooms and 598,436 school desks.

The government's P2.5-billion school building program could not adequately match these needs, he said.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has built 403 classrooms under the 2002 budget but this number still falls short of the actual classroom requirements.

For lack of classrooms, the DepEd has resorted to combining several year levels in a class, a scheme that is tough on teachers, Sibug said.

The restrictions in resources, he noted, have "serious implications" on the quality of learning. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

17-year-old Cagayan student invents remote thermometer

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MARS Cacacho, who invented a remote thermometer, tests his gadget on patients.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TUGUEGARAO CITY—When 17-year-old McAllen Reonel Sebastian Cacacho was in Grade 5, he disassembled a radio set brought to their house for repairs by his father's friend.

Cacacho, called Mars (taken from the initials of his first name) by relatives and friends, quietly tinkered with the radio set as his father Allen, an electronics teacher, and his friend were talking.

Mars' mother, Eleonora, a chemistry teacher and head of the science department of the Cagayan National High School, said Mars, who graduated from the CNHS in April, showed an early interest in science and would not stop until he perfected anything that he was working on.

Mars' perseverance and hard work have indeed benefited several hospitals in the city after they tested his invention, the Biological Remote Thermometer and Sensor (BRTS), which can detect human temperature through a remote sensor.

Mars started researching and working on the BRTS five years ago, when he was in elementary school, with the help of four other classmates. He was leading the team of student researchers at the Tuguegarao West Central School then.

Mars led the construction of the BRTS as an entry to the 1997-98 National Science Fair's Search for Ten Outstanding Young Scientists held at the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City.

Although their entry, the early version of the BRTS, did not win any prize, Mars became determined to improve it. The project's failure at the fair challenged Mars to perfect the gadget.

When he was in his third year at the CNHS, Mars decided to resume work on the BRTS through the help of his father, who acted as his adviser. Mars, after continuous and painstaking research, then decided to enter an improved version of the BRTS in the National Intel Science Fair held at the University of the Philippines last February.

This time, his hard work bore fruit. He was declared champion in the individual category for applied science.

As part of his prize, Mars was sent to Cleveland, Ohio as one of the representatives of the Philippines in the International Science and Engineering Fair (Isef) on May 11-17. He will be representing the Philippines in another science fair to be held in Beijing, China.

Mars, along with nine other Philippine delegates, underwent a rigorous training at the UP to prepare them for the presentation and defense of their respective entries.

About 1,300 delegates from 40 countries are participating in the Isef. Of the 10 representing Philippines, four are from the Philippine Science High School, five from Agusan del Norte and Mars from Northern Luzon.

The gadget

The BRTS can measure body heat by the number of clicks transmitted over the FM radio band. While ordinarily, temperature is taken with a regular thermometer positioned on certain parts of the body, with the BRTS, body temperature can be detected even through the fingers.

It can also detect temperature of people in motion.

To get readings, the BRTS' sensor circuit and its transmitter (any FM radio cassette recorder) should be tuned in to any FM band with no broadcasts.

A clear ticking sound occurring at the rate of about three ticks per second can be heard over the FM band. The rate of ticking varies directly with the temperature being measured.

The gadget then sends temperature readings within a 20-meter radius through its remote sensor. Temperature readings come in the form of ticks heard over the FM band and recorded on tape for analysis.

Mars' BRTS was tested in various hospitals in Tuguegarao City.

Mars, during his experiments, was supervised by Dr. Rey Dulig and Dr. Rose Lily Blancaflor of the People's Emergency Hospital; by Dr. Emmanuel Acluba, Leon Batugal and Dr. Blandina Guzman of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center; and Dr. Eduardo Taguba of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Clinic.

After the field experiments at these hospitals, the doctors and medical staff spoke highly of Mars' invention.

They recommended that the BRTS be used to measure the temperature of infants, children and adult patients.

They also suggested that a smaller and handy version of the BRTS be made.

The doctors said the gadget would be useful at night because doctors and nurses would not need to personally attend to a patient just to get his or her temperature.

They said a stronger transmitter would have to be used for the gadget's sensor to monitor the temperature of the environment and other organisms even beyond a 1-km radius.

The doctors said Mars' invention should be patented so its distribution to hospitals could be legalized.

The tests on Mars' BRTS also showed that the gadget could be used as an early warning device that could detect overheating of home appliances in advance.

Mars' parents, who are only average income earners, said they have not yet decided where to enrol him for college.

Central Luzon farmers picket DAR office

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tucking sickles in their belts and bearing plows on their shoulders, some 200 farmers on Monday picketed the Department of Agrarian Reform's Central Luzon office and tore a big chart of the accomplishments of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) over the last 15 years.

"We feel more hopeless every time the CARP anniversary is celebrated. It only reminds us that we still do not own the lands we till," said Jose Cunanan, spokesperson of the Central Luzon chapter of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM).

The picket kicked off the two-day "Lakbayan Laban sa Mapanlinlang na Repormang Pansakahan" of the PKMM.

Started on the eve of the CARP's 15th anniversary, the protest caravan would move to Quezon City for an overnight vigil at the DAR national office and to Manila today for a torch parade-rally, Cunanan said.

He said the CARP has "managed to create the illusion" of land distribution.

"Farmers today are forced to pay for the right to cultivate a land they have long tilled through a CLOA (Certificate of Land Ownership Award), payable to the government and landowner at their own designated market price," he said in a statement.

Citing DAR data, Cunanan said the government has canceled or confiscated 37,740 CLOAs and emancipation patents in Central Luzon since 2000.

He accused the government of bloating the CARP accomplishment by including in its land distribution report about 160,000 hectares of farm lands in Pampanga, Zambales and Tarlac that have been buried in lahar and have not been cultivated by farmer-beneficiaries.

The PKMM also criticized the DAR for "scoring so poorly." Only 11,905 of 109,759 ha targeted for distribution between June 2002 and June 2003 had been distributed by DAR, the PKMM said.

At least 60 percent of these lands were obtained more through the voluntary-offer-to-sell scheme than through compulsory acquisition, which allows the government to buy private lands at lower prices.

Among those who joined Monday's picket was Ben, a farmer from Hacienda Da Luz on the boundaries of Cabanatuan City, Talavera and Natividad towns in Nueva Ecija.

He said he and 100 farmers have not been awarded their CLOA eight years after the DAR declared them farmer-beneficiaries and after they had paid for the value of the land. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Probe of school buildings hampers use by students

LUCENA CITY—Close to 100 public school teachers from Sariaya and Gumaca, Quezon trooped to the provincial council session hall yesterday and asked that they be allowed to use two newly-built but controversial school buildings.

The school buildings are being investigated due to alleged anomalous construction procedure.

The teachers told the council members that the P8-million two E-type school buildings in Lutucan National High School in Sariaya and Gumaca National High School, with eight classrooms each, could help accommodate more students.

Each classroom could contain at least 50 students.

During last week's regular session, board member Vicente Alcala questioned the lack of legal documents backing the construction.

He charged that the bidding procedure was anomalous.

The provincial council called on Cesar Palayan, Quezon provincial engineer, to clarify the practice. Palayan promised to produce all the documents related to the project during the next hearing.

The council created a special committee that would investigate the matter and see if other government projects had also undergone the same questionable paper flow.

Agnes Dasilva, Lutucan National High School department head, appealed to several board members for permission to use the building while the investigation is ongoing.

Proserpina Oliveros, Gumaca National High School principal, also brought up the lack of chairs in the new school building.

Until the special committee finishes its investigation, the use of the school buildings will still be uncertain, according to some board members.

The School Board funded the projects with its share of the realty tax paid for by the Quezon Power Ltd. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Roundup

Cafgu men wounded

DAVAO CITY—Four members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were wounded in an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Paquibato district here Friday. Wounded were Simeon Ongando, Lito Joaquin, Puyal Intehoy and Jose Salusad, who were assigned with the 73th Infantry Battalion. Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, 73rd IB commander, said his men and 40 other Cafgu members were on a mission in Sitio Dalag in Barangay Tapak. When they reached the area, they were met with a volley of gunfire. The soldiers fought back, forcing the rebels to withdraw. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Held for selling kid

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—On Saturday, a 21-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly selling her own daughter last year. Reports identified the suspect as Jessalyn Sim, a native of Palawan and a resident of Valenzuela City. Roberto Culijera, 38, Sim's former live-in partner and father of the child, filed the child trafficking charges against her before the Malolos City regional trial court. Police said Sim sold her daughter for P6,000 in July 2002 to a certain Remedios de Guzman of Pangasinan. The girl was only five months old then. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Top cop probed

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A top official of the Central Luzon police has ordered an investigation of another police official who was accused of coddling four policemen involved in car theft. Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, regional police chief, promised to address the accusation against Supt. Elmer Soria, regional traffic management head. Soria, SPO1 Wilmore Medes, SPO2 Eduardo Nolasco, PO1 Nepthalie Estucado. and Senior Insp. Gideon Dy were named in the complaint filed by Jonathan Tiongco on May 29 at the police's internal affairs service. Tiongco claimed that Soria had blocked two police operations to recover at least four stolen vehicles being used by the four policemen. "I don't know anything about this. But I'm open to any investigation (sic)," Soria said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Bombs probed

TACLOBAN CITY—The police have conducted an investigation to determine the identity of the suspect/s who planted two improvised bombs at the office of the Commission on Higher Education-Eastern Visayas (Ched-8) based in this city. The bombs were discovered last June 3. The improvised bomb consisting of explosive powder, a battery and timer, was found at the back of the cabinet at the Ched-8 accounting division. The other bomb—kerosene placed inside an alcohol bottle that was attached to a battery and timer—was discovered inside a cabinet at the office's information-communication division. Supt. Arnulfo Cruz, Tacloban City police chief, said the suspect/s placed the bombs in the cabinets to destroy some pertinent documents ***Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Hacked dead

ILOILO CITY—Three family members were hacked to death inside their home in Buenavista town, on the island-province of Guimaras last June 1. Insp. Carlito Floro, Buenavista police chief, said Luis Yudai, 57, his wife Anna, 62, and her brother, Edgar Glorial, 50, were found dead at the Yudai residence in Barangay Supang. Police had yet to identify the suspects but Floro said the killers could be known to the family because there was no sign of forcible entry. Floro said the Yudai family owns a 13-hectare land in the barangay that was recently divided among Luis, Edgar and Yudai's son, Joemarie ***Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Driver saves child

DUMAGUETE CITY—A multicab driver saved the life of an eight-year-old rape victim who was about to be killed by the suspect on Tuesday night in Barangay Can-dau-ay here. Supt. Constantino Barol Jr., Dumaguete police chief, said Ramon Sibud was driving his multicab in Barangay Batinguel when he saw the victim and the suspect in a dimly lit secluded area. After dropping off his passengers, he went back to the place, sensing something was wrong. Sibud found the victim almost unconscious. He brought her to the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital The girl identified the rapist as Rediol Baxito, a convicted murderer, parolee and a close friend of the victim's parent ***Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***

CARP DEATH BLOW

Farmer groups slam farmland-as-collateral bill

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ON THE eve of the 15th year implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), several farmers groups and nongovernment organizations called for the junking of the so-called "farmland-as-collateral bill" which they said would result in the reconsolidation of agricultural lands by landlords.

The Sandigan at Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (Sumapi) and the National Peasant Democratic Caucus (NPDC), in a news conference, said Senate Bill 2553 will "deliver the deathblow" to the 15-year-old agrarian reform program instituted during the Aquino administration.

"SB 2553, if enacted, will pave the way for landowners and investors and land speculators to reconsolidate lands that have been and will be distributed under CARP," said Sumapi chair Ed Mora.

Bal Martin, chair of the Aniban ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA), said the bill's main intent was to push CARP lands to the land and capital market.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her 2002 State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA), said she will push for the enactment of the farmland-as-collateral bill.

Mora said if the bill would be passed and signed into law, "the Macapagal (administration) will be remembered as the one which (delivered) the final death blow to CARP."

Authored by Senators Serge Osmeña III, Ramon Magsaysay, Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro, SB 2553 seeks to confer collateral value to Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) by lifting the 10-year period in transferability through an amendment of Section 27 (Transferability of Awarded Lands) of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law or Republic Act 6657.

Section 27 provides that lands acquired by beneficiaries under the Act may not be sold, transferred or conveyed except through hereditary succession, or to the government, or to the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), or to other qualified beneficiaries for 10 years.

Reconsolidation

The Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI), a nongovernment farmer-based policy research and advocacy organization, said under the prevailing economic conditions of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), the enactment of the farmland as collateral bill "will only serve as a scheme toward the reconsolidation of agricultural lands."

"By effectively lifting the transferability clause under Section 27 of RA 6657, the tenurial rights of ARBs will be undermined, paving the way for the former landowners to re-acquire their lands," said Romeo Royandoyan, PPI executive director, in a statement.

The PPI disclosed that, based on LBP data, the past due crop production loans of small farmers have increased by 25 percent from P1.2 billion in 1999 to P1.5 billion as of September 2001. The past due loans of ARBs rose by 23 percent from P2.6 billion in 1999 to P3.2 billion as of September 2001.

Worse, the crop production loan default of small farmers increased by 45.45 percent from P33 million in 1999 to P48 million as of September 2001, according to the PPI.

"As it is, farmers are unable to repay their loans from banks and other financial institutions. With the current impoverished state of the ARBs, the conveyance of collateral value to their Emancipation Patents (EPs) and CLOAs will result to the bankruptcy of ARBs and the foreclosure of CARP-covered lands," Royandoyan said.

Anti-farmer

He lambasted Congress for including anti-farmer provisions in the "farmland-as-collateral" bill. "The current bills on farmland as collateral are both anti-farmer and anti-land reform. These bills are the ones that are actually pushing for the transfer of CARP-covered lands from ARBs to non-ARBs and the eventual reconsolidation of agricultural lands," he said.

The PPI called on President Macapagal to call off the enactment of the bill and prioritize massive rural land titling instead.

"Aside from support services and crop insurance, ARBs need their lands to be titled. President Macapagal should strongly consider this because it would address both the issue of property rights as well as the collaterability of farmlands," Royandoyan said.

Leaders of Sumapi and NPDC dismissed the 15th year of CARP as "another year of failure and misery." The two groups will stage a a protest action in Malacañang tomorrow to demand the junking of SB 2553.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) will mark the 15th year of CARP with a "Nationwide Peasant's Protest for Land, Not Militarization" from today till tomorrow.

"There is no reason to celebrate the 15th year of the bogus CARP," said KMP national chair Rafael Mariano.

Mariano said the CARP had been "doomed from the start" since "the (law) itself has been used by big landlords like (Danding) Cojuangco to evade genuine land distribution."

Machinations

He said succeeding administrations, including that of Ms Macapagal "have further rotten the law through exemptions, conversions, and various machinations like the corporate and leaseback schemes."

Mariano cited the exemption of more than 6,000 hectares of Hacienda Luisita owned by former President Corazon Aquino's family in Tarlac that has been under the Stock Distribution Option scheme and Cojuangco's Hacienda Pontevedra in Negros Occidental under the "corporative (corporation and cooperative) scheme."

"CARP has exempted thousands of hectares of lands for distribution and has instead strengthened the big landlords' grip and control over vast tracts of land," he said.

Mariano assailed the Department of Agrarian Reform's accomplishment report which claimed a distribution percentage of 78 percent on the 15th year of CARP. He doubted whether the DAR has a "clean, accurate and credible inventory of lands actually acquired and distributed after 15 years."

He said the DAR accomplishment included lands with unresolved agrarian disputes and those not yet registered but reported as accomplishment."

"This so-called accomplishment arrogantly reported by DAR's spin-doctors do not contain vast tracts of land by untouchable landlords by the likes of Cojuangco, Sen. (Ramon) Revilla, the Puyats and Aranetas," Mariano said.

It has been a practice by DAR field personnel to report accomplishment on land distribution pending registration of EPs and CLOAs, he noted.

"Actual land distribution is different from distribution of useless certificates," Mariano said.

The KMP said "tens of thousands of farmers" in its 66 regional and provincial chapters are set to hold protest actions in various protest centers nationwide.

Detention of farmers shows land reform woes

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Catalino Alap-ap, in his late 60s, stared blankly from his detention cell at the provincial jail here, wondering when he would regain freedom and be reunited with his anxious family in Kapatagan town, some 25 km from this provincial capital town.

Alap-ap was jailed along with three others beginning May 27 on charges of qualified theft and estafa filed by a daughter of Benjamin Batomalaque, his landlord. Six other farmers charged with the same offenses have remained at large.

As the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) turns 15 years old today, Alap-ap and the other farmers will be spending exactly two weeks in jail.

Arturo Padigos, spokesperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in Lanao del Norte, said the fate of the detainees illustrated the difficulties in implementing the CARP mandate "at least in Lanao del Norte."

"And their continuing detention shows the slow grind of agrarian justice in this country," he added.

Last week, some 100 members of KMP-affiliated Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Lanao (KAMAS-Lanas) staged a demonstration outside the Kapatagan regional trial court as the criminal cases involving the 10 farmers were opened for trial.

The farmers denounced "the criminalization" of what amounts to be "a purely agrarian case" because the dispute is over the tenancy status of a cultivator.

The criminal cases filed against Alap-ap and nine others stemmed from his leading the nine farmers in harvesting coconut from the 16-hectare Batomalaque estate in Barangay Lapinig of Kapatagan town early this year.

Alap-ap is has been in dispute with the Batomalaques over his tenancy status. He started farming in the 16-hectare estate in 1992 when the land was still sparsely planted with crops.

He recalled that only some 200 coconut trees were planted then. The production sharing was a third for him and two-thirds for the Batomalaques. Within four years, he was able to plant 400 more trees, bringing the total productive coconut trees to 600.

Sometime in 1996, Alap-ap faced Marcela Batomalaque in the office of barangay chair Anecita Go in relation to his tenancy status. There, Batomalaque told Alap-ap that her family did not recognize him as their tenant.

SOME farmers would rather climb coconut trees for their fruits than be evicted from their lands. PDI PHOTO

Alap-ap went to the Barangay Agrarian Reform Council whose members, in turn, certified that he has been a tenant in the Batomalaque estate, but the family refused to honor this.

So for six years beginning 1996, Alap-ap and his family were barred from harvesting coconut in the Batomalaque estate. The Batomalaques only hired farmworkers to do the harvesting for them.

Because of this, the Alap-ap family had to find other means to survive. But early this year, Alap-ap braved through his fears of repercussion and decided to harvest coconuts from the estate.

He divided the proceeds based on the traditional sharing scheme he had with the Batomalaques, but the family of his landlord refused to accept the production share. Alap-ap went to DAR legal officer Eddie Dimavivas who advised him to deposit the Batomalaques' share of the proceeds in a bank, which he did.

But this did not impress the Batomalaques who filed criminal charges against them. Dimavivas was included in the charge sheet but was able to post the recommended P24,000 bail for each detainee.

Kamas-Lanao chair Macario Jenayas told the INQUIRER that at least 50 coconut farmers in Lanao del Norte are facing a similar legal problem, "in fact the same case of qualified theft filed against coconut farmers who braved the landowners' will of barring them from enjoying the fruits of their labor."

Jenayas disclosed that ten have been indicted for the same offense in Linamon town and another five in Kolambugan town, all in connection with the landowners' desire to shoo away tenants from their coconut estates.

Throughout northwestern Mindanao, which is primarily coconut-producing, there is an observably very slow pace of land reform, said Ricky Juab, regional secretary general of the peasant group Makabayan-Pilipinas.

Mindanao gets most of foreign-assisted CARP funds

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Some P3.1 billion worth of foreign assisted funds will be channeled to agrarian reform projects in at least three regions in Mindanao.

The projects aim to uplift income and productivity of thousands of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs).

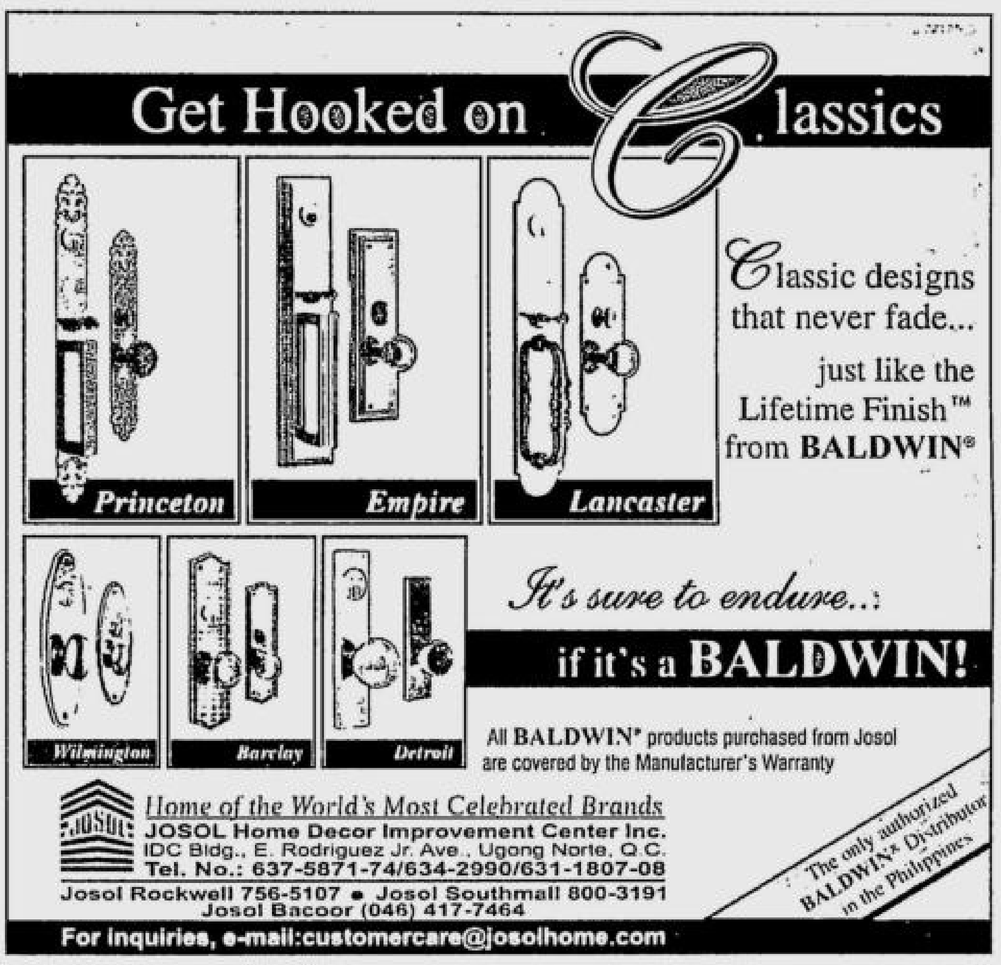
Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan of the Department of Agrarian Reform said recently that the Macapagal administration had a total of P3.1 billion foreign-assisted funding coming from Japan, the United States and Belgium.

Pagdanganan, in an interview, said 53 percent of the total foreign-assisted funding nationwide would go to eight various integrated projects in the six provinces of Southern and Central Mindanao and the Caraga Region.

He added that the Mindanao ARBs were fortunate to receive more DAR projects than those in Luzon and the Visayas.

He cited projects such as farm-to-market roads, irrigation and infrastructure facilities, health centers and school buildings that will benefit 46,972 households covering 125,422 hectares of agrarian reform land.

He said the local government units were expected to contribute "counterpart funds" to these projects.



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GMA calls for fairness

From page A1

many policies in government" could do such a thing, Rañada said.

In his letter to the "Faithful of Novaliches," Bacani said he was "deeply sorry for the consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection to my secretary on the 26th of March 2003."

Rañada said the word "inappropriate is a relative term and its meaning depends on the person involved."

"What is appropriate for you may be inappropriate for me," he said.

Inconsistencies

In his departure statement, Bacani said he read news reports on the matter with "great sadness" because of the inconsistencies, especially those printed in Newsbreak, a fortnightly magazine.

The news magazine, Bacani said, "wrongly places the alleged incident in my house in Fairview, where I did not start to live till after Easter Sunday, April 20, 2003."

He also denied reports that people in Paco, Manila, demonstrated against him when he was assigned there as parish priest over alleged sexual ties with women. Bacani said the demonstration "never happened."

The bishop expressed the hope that the matter would "redound to the purification of the Church, as well as of all the persons involved."

"I ask for the Lord's mercy on myself and His pardon for the persons who have damaged my good name and inflicted pain on the Church," he said.

Ms Macapagal said she was saddened by the reports, "but I also know that the Church has the leadership, fortitude and strength to surmount these trials."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the latest sexual scandal to hit the Church could erode its "moral authority."

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said the series of stories on the "foibles and failures" of some clergymen could have negative effects on the Church.

PDI PHOTO

PRESIDENT Macapagal congratulates Bishop Teodoro Bacani after the Jan. 15 installation ceremony in the newly created diocese of Novaliches.

"Bacani is reported to have denied the accusation pressed against him. Any accusation, however, reinforces the negative opinions of cynics, skeptics and critics of the Church," he said. "This sad situation may shake the faith of not a few."

"In all this, the Church must remain credible and courageous as a moral authority in the face of the moral implications of the many social, economic and political problems in our country. Even when besieged, the Church cannot remain silent about other problems," Quevedo said.

"The sinfulness of its members does not take away the fundamental holiness of the Church ... our faith then is not because of any Church personality," he added.

Quevedo said it was "extremely difficult to make any statement on a case that bishops are not normally privy to, (thus) is referred directly to Rome." But he said, "I have total confidence in how Rome does its job."

He stressed the need for confidentiality "for the sake of all parties involved." However, he said, "Rome is more than aware that to buy someone's silence can easily backfire and create more harm than good."

"Therefore, we must refrain from racing to judgment against any of the parties involved," he said.

Quevedo said, "Every case of clergy misconduct, whether alleged or proven, brings out even more the human and divine elements of the Church founded by Christ."

Citing the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ, Quevedo said "all of them sinned when they abandoned Christ when He was arrested."

Saints and sinners

He said "the Church has always been and will be till the end of time, a community of saints and sinners."

In an unprecedented move, the CBCP in July last year publicly apologized for sexual abuses committed by priests, but insisted that a majority of clergymen remained faithful to their vows.

The Church also admitted that some 200 priests were investigated for sexual misconduct over the past 20 years, some of whom were dismissed while most resigned voluntarily.

In the House of Representatives, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said people should "withhold any judgment" on Bacani since there was a pending investigation by the Church.

"Let us not prejudge him as he deserves a hearing," Marcos said in a phone interview.

She lamented that the people were "heading toward losing their faith" in the political and social institutions.

People, she said, were confronted with the impeachment charges filed against justices of the Supreme Court, the "final arbiter of justice," and now with the sexual harassment complaint against Bacani.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the allegations against Bacani were a "big shocker for the Church" because it involved a "prominent leader of the Church" and someone who has "played active roles in political issues" in the country.

"But assuming the claim [against Bacani] is true, it shows he can be subject to temptations," he said.

Like any man, Bacani commits mistakes but he has to "face it, and accept the consequences," Rosales said.

Rosales said she respected Bacani, whom she described as a "progressive" person, from his opposition to the Marcos regime and to the US invasion of Iraq."

"He [Bacani] has exercised strong spiritual and moral leadership, that it is such a big letdown for people who looked up to him," Rosales said in a phone interview. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 (RA 7877)

WHAT is sexual harassment?

Work, education or training-related sexual harassment is committed by an employer, employee, manager, supervisor, agent of the employer, teacher, instructor, professor, coach, trainor, or any other person who, having authority, influence or moral ascendancy over another in a work or training or education environment, demands, requests or otherwise requires any sexual favor from the other, regardless of whether the demand, request or requirement for submission is accepted.

How is sexual harassment committed?

In a work-related or employment environment, sexual harassment is committed when:

- The sexual favor is made as a condition in the hiring or in the employment, reemployment or continued employment of said individual, or in granting said individual favorable compensation, terms, conditions, promotions, or privileges; or the refusal to grant the sexual favor results in limiting, segregating or classifying the employee which in any way would discriminate, deprive or diminish employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect said employee.
- The above acts would impair the employee's rights or privileges under existing labor laws.
- The above acts would result in an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the employee.

In an education or training environment, sexual harassment is committed:

- Against one who is under the care, custody or supervision of the offender.
- Against one whose education, training, apprenticeship or tutorship is entrusted to the offender.
- When the sexual favor is made a condition to the giving of a passing grade, or the granting of honors and scholarships or the payment of a stipend, allowance or other benefits, privileges, or considerations.
- When the sexual advances result in an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for the student, trainee or apprentice.

What are the forms of sexual harassment?

Under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Act (AO 250), sexual harassment may be committed in any of the following:

- Overt sexual advances.
- Unwelcome or improper gestures of affection.
- Request or demand for sexual favors including but not limited to going out on dates, outings or the like for the same purpose.
- Any other act or conduct of a sexual nature or for purposes of sexual gratification which is generally annoying, disgusting or offensive to the victim.

Who are liable other than the sexual harasser?

- Any person who directs or induces another to commit any act of sexual harassment as herein defined, or who cooperates in the commission thereof by another without which it would not have been committed, shall also be held liable under this act.
- The employer or head of office, educational or training institution shall be solidarily liable for damages arising from the acts of sexual harassment committed in the employment, education or training environment if the employer or head of office, educational or training institution is informed of such acts by the offended party and no immediate action is taken thereon.

What are the penalties?

Any person who violates the provisions of the act shall, upon conviction, be penalized by imprisonment of not less than one month nor more than six months, or a fine of not less than P10,000 nor more than P20,000, or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Prescription of crime

Any action arising from the violation of the provisions of this act shall prescribe in three years.

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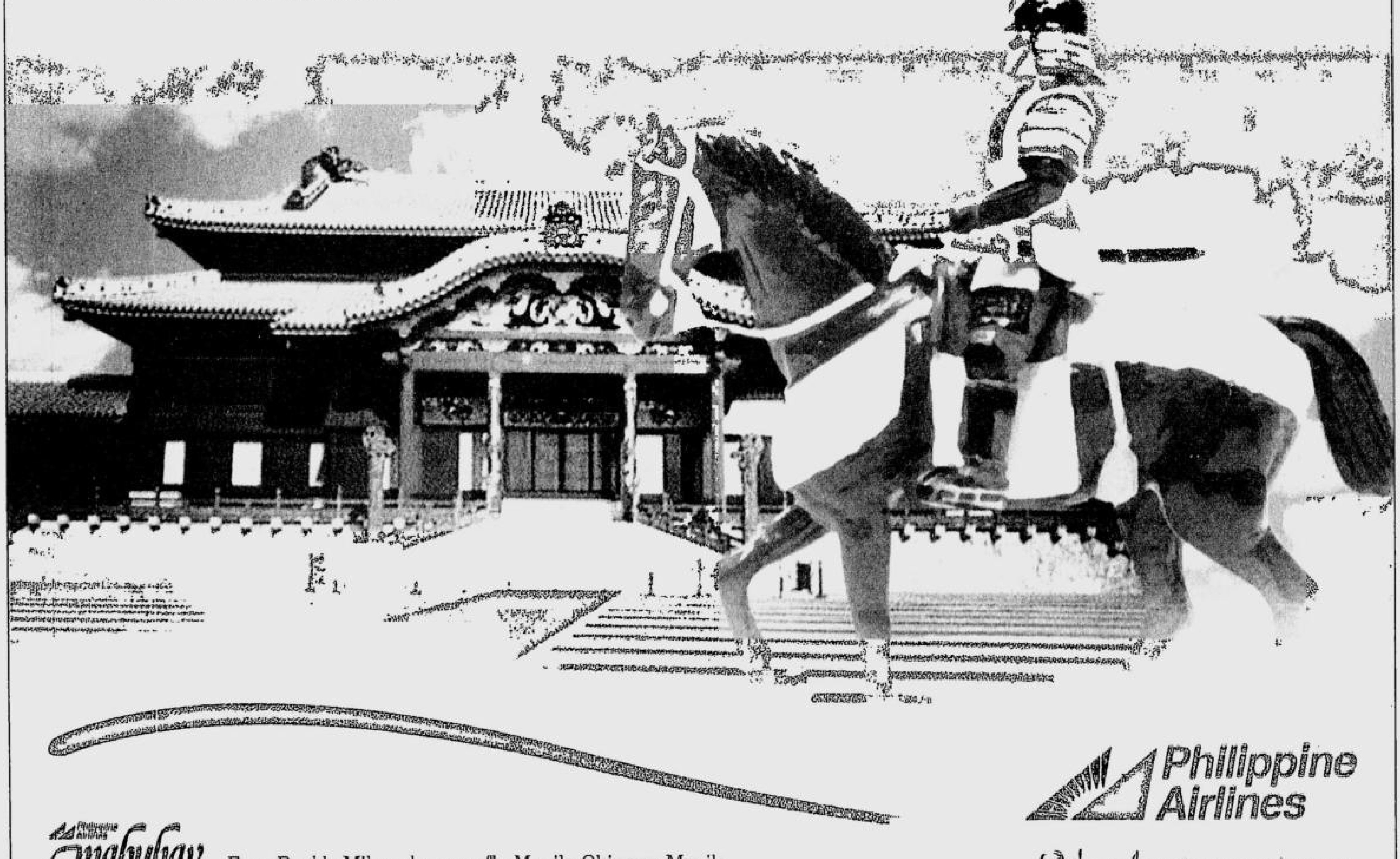

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‘A model mentor, an ardent activist’

From page A1

In the communities of Caloocan City and Novaliches in Quezon City, Bacani is seen as a champion of the poor.

Coronel said people would come to him for help when demolition teams threatened squatter families or when electric company servicemen cut power due to nonpayment of bills.

“He made a lot of enemies doing that,” he said.

Coronel said Bacani’s role as adviser to the El Shaddai charismatic group also showed his genuine concern for the poor.

His attention to the poor was never just for show, according to Acuña.

“He has this special charisma. He easily gets people to warm up to him and is very sincere with people,” he said. “He’s always prepared for his radio program [but] he is never intimidating.”

Acuña said he had never seen or heard anything bad about Bacani’s behavior at the radio station since he joined the bishop at Veritas in 1994.

“He’s an all-around good guy,” he said.

Coronel said Bacani’s eloquence had served the CBCP well. Bacani once chaired the CBCP committee on public affairs.

“He made the draft of some of the CBCP’s key documents,” Coronel said.

The CBCP has yet to issue a formal statement supporting Bacani. “I cannot speak for the CBCP but I texted Bishop Bacani on Sunday. On a personal note, I told him we are offering Masses and sacrifices for him in these times of trial,” Coronel said.

If Mila Obinieta, 54, had her way, she would confront Bacani’s former secretary for putting him “in a bad light.”

“If I only knew where I could find her, I would go to her and tell her to shut up and stop making up stories. She doesn’t know the consequences of all these,” Obinieta told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Obinieta, a widow and mother of 10 children, has been working for 11 years as a helper at the San Roque Parish in Caloocan, where Bacani was assigned five years ago before he was transferred to the diocese of Novaliches.

Like most parish workers, Obinieta said she still could not believe that someone like Bishop Bacani could be involved in a sex scandal.

“That’s definitely untrue, impossible. A person like Bishop Bacani could not do that. He’s naturally close to people, but the sex story was only made up by some obviously malicious people,” a teary-eyed Obinieta said.

“He is very nice to everybody, and we would like to assure him that we still believe in him no matter what,” said 65-year-old Mang Canor, a resident of Caloocan.

Bacani’s former parishioners in San Fernando de Dilao in Paco, Manila, expressed sadness when the bishop was transferred from their parish to the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas and North Quezon City diocese in 1996.

In a reprint of their letter, dated Jan. 6, 1996 and sent to Sin, the parishioners told the prelate how they would miss Bacani and how he made them realize their “individual worthiness.”

“Through the years, this very personal concern of his has molded in us a strengthening of our faith that is visibly demonstrated in the increase in Mass attendance,” the parishioners said in their letter.

“His battle cry—each one is important, each one is needed and each one must come together with others—[inspired us] in our involvement in parish activities,” they added.

They called Bacani’s transfer an “immeasurable loss.”

“All this, we will miss when he leaves us next week,” they said.

NPA releases soldier-hostage

DAVAO—An Army soldier was set free Monday by communist rebels after 14 months of captivity, officials said.

Sgt. Ramiro Lawas of the 60th Infantry Battalion was the only prisoner of a rebel ambush in the southern Philippines that left 10 soldiers dead and at least 12 wounded on April 4, 2002, the rebels said in a statement.

“From 6 p.m. until morning, we fought. My companions were killed . . . and my bullets were consumed. So I gave up later, because there were so many of them,” Lawas told reporters following his release in Davao City.

He appeared unhurt and said he was treated well.

In the statement, the rebels said they provided Lawas with “the best that can be given under the prevailing guerrilla conditions.” It wasn’t clear, however, why he was held for so long.

Army Lt. Col. Agene Adriatico said Lawas would be interrogated. He did not elaborate.

In 2001, the government suspended peace talks with the rebels on ending the 30-year insurgency. Government efforts to resume the talks earlier this year failed after the rebels rejected a government-drafted peace accord.

The United States and the European Union have included the rebel New People’s Army on their lists of terrorist organizations.

Suspected communist rebels burned a passenger bus in Tarlac province north of Manila late Saturday to punish its owners for refusing to pay “revolutionary taxes,” a military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Preme Monta, said Monday.

As the bus reached a dark section of road, several rebels among its 30 passengers stood up, announced they were New People’s Army guerrillas and ordered everybody to turn off their cell phones and get off the bus, Monta said.

At least 20 other guerrillas with cans of gasoline emerged from the grasses outside and set the bus ablaze, Monta said. No one was hurt and the rebels fled.

The rebels burned another bus last week in Nueva Ecija after ordering the passengers to get off because its owners failed to pay rebel-imposed taxes, military officials said. *AP*

Mother of bishop’s secretary bares ordeal

From page A1

At work, rumors started to spread because of the woman’s absence. This further reinforced the mother’s resolve to fight for her daughter. “Not only her reputation was put at stake, even her work was affected,” the source told the INQUIRER.

Eventually, the secretary resigned from her job because of pressure arising from the scandal.

The victim had been working for Bacani over the past five years starting from the time the bishop was assigned to the bishopric of Caloocan City. Although the bishop was rumored to have been involved in relationships in the past, this is the first time that a complaint has been filed against him.

Teary-eyed

A teary-eyed former aide of Bacani said the woman should have resolved the problem within the family of the Church.

“She should have resolved this through prayer,” said the aide, who never saw the scandal coming as the woman was “shy and unassuming.”

The former staffer of Bacani at the St. Peter’s parish in Quezon City, who asked not to be named, said the woman was a native of Pampanga, who did not finish college.

“She was majoring in education, but dropped out in her second year,” Bacani’s former staffer said.

The woman, who was described as “petite and plain-looking,” was not known to be liberal in her manner of dressing, although sometimes she went around in shorts, the staffer said.

Shaking her head in sympathy over Bacani’s plight, the former staffer said the girl should not have gone to the militant women’s group Gabriela, unless she had a different agenda.

Monsignor Jesus-Romulo C. Rañada, Bacani’s spokesperson, also expressed surprise when the woman sought the help of Gabriela and the Department of Health.

“Maybe it’s just a misunderstanding among them,” he said of the woman and Bacani.

Rañada said the scandal could be used by critics of Bacani to silence him or to undermine the moral authority of the Church.

“You cannot help but make enemies, especially if you take a principled stand on politics, economics, etc.,” he said.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines denied allegations that the nuncio, who is looking into the Bacani case, had tried to offer money to the woman to buy her silence.

“I also know that on the part of Rome or its representative, there is never any attempt to buy the silence of any aggrieved party who always remains free to go to the press at any time,” CBCP president Orlando Quevedo said.

Burden of proof

Emmi de Jesus, deputy secretary general of Gabriela, said the burden of proof should not be placed on Bacani’s former secretary.

“If a woman feels uncomfortable with and violated by a man’s action, even if he perceives it as a mere expression of affection, then there is sexual harassment. The burden of proof should not be placed on the woman because she was the one who felt violated,” De Jesus said.

“Indeed, there are displays of affection that are rather ambiguous and thus could be subjected to misinterpretation, but as a rule, it is always the woman’s perception that should be given credence,” De Jesus said.

De Jesus said her group was familiar with the reactions of women who felt doubly violated and harassed after their cases had been exposed.

“This is because the woman or victim is always blamed, especially if the accused is a powerful and influential person,” De Jesus added.

Gabriela called on the Catholic Church to seriously address the issue of sexual harassment in its ranks.

“It is high time that the Catholic Church looked seriously at the issue and took into consideration the situation of women within its organization,” De Jesus said.

De Jesus said Bacani’s public apology, which was read in his diocese, was “already a positive sign that he is willing to face the consequences of his actions.” *Reports from Armand N. Nocum and Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Kalayaan

HUNYO 12, 2003
“SA MATATAG NA REPUBLIKA...
BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!

GMA to lead nation in the observance of RP’s 105th Independence Day

FOR the second year in a row, Mindanao will take center stage in the celebration of the Philippine Independence Day on Thursday, June 12, 2003. **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** will lead the observance in Mindanao, a reprise of last year’s occasion which witnessed the President raising the Philippine Flag in Lamitan, Basilan, to usher in the nationwide celebration.

President Arroyo is the first president to have celebrated important national events outside Manila to disprove public perception that Manila is the end all and be all of nationhood and national celebration. Besides the Freedom Day observance, the President led the Rizal Day celebration, in December in Baguio.

This year’s celebration of our Freedom Day will be simple but symbolic, with exhortations to the Filipinos to achieve oneness in national spirit. The President’s message will highlight the theme of unity in diversity.

The active participation of the major broadcast networks and the broadsheets shall be utilized to the maximum to effect the best means of unity covering the four coverage points of the country via microwave satellite, cable, ENGs linking the activities in the Quirino Grandstand and the Mindanao region.

The Office of the Press Secretary has mobilized the **RTVM, NBN-4**, including **RPN-9, IBC-13** as well as the active participation of **ABS-CBN-2, ABC5, ANC-21, GMA-7**, Radyo ng Bayan and the PIA nationwide to play an active role in the coverage and dissemination of the simultaneous flag raising, and Oath of Allegiance.

According to Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod, RTVM head, the cooperation of PLDT and the cable networks have been tapped for the coverage of the important Presidential events/activities in 10 historic sites from Kawit to Gen. Santos, the Vin d’ Honneur, the traditional Independence Day Toast for the Diplomatic Community and the President’s afternoon Independence Day message in Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, in celebration of the 105th Independence Day, TV stations and cable networks have agreed to showcase favorite Pinoy classics as well as Kundiman and Pinoy music from June 8-14, 2003 to promote this year’s theme “ **Sa Matatag na Republika, Bayan Ko Sagot. Ko.**” According to **Tourism Secretary Richard G. Gordon**, chairman of this year’s Independence Day celebration, the film marathon will serve as a wake up call to promoting citizenship particularly citizen’s accountability to the country, as it has relevance to the present condition of the country where some of our people have lost their sense of accountability.

The marathon billed as **“Kurot sa Puso,”** a film showing of selected Filipino feel-good movies that portray love of country, heroism, sense of accountability to the country and other motivational films, is just one of the drumbeating activities to generate public support and interest in the year’s biggest national event. The KBP member stations will also participate in the Kurot sa Puso sa Radyo via Kundiman and pinoy music.

The Philippine Information Agency headed by **Director General Renato Velasco**, Co-Chair of the Media and Publicity Committee has coordinated with the various network/KBP stations for their participation in the “Kurot sa Puso” film showing and Pinoy music in the airlanes.

On June 12, Cinema 21 of ABS-CBN lined up nationalistic-themed movies from 7:45 am till 11:30 pm. Films include Kapit sa Patalim, Damong Ligaw, Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon, Bagong Buwan, Eskapo, Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway, Oro Plata Mata, Curacha.

Also the National Broadcasting Network-PTV4, IBC 13, RPN-9 June 10/11 will be showing Anak ng Bayan, a 2 hour TV documentary on the heroic struggles and patriotism of Andres Bonifacio and Premiere Production’s Huling Mandirigma.

While ABC 5 will have a weekend film showing on June 7, 8 and 14 focusing on the value of youth and family.

The other venues of these **“Kurot sa Puso”** film festival include the CCP Dulaang Ishmael Bernal, Dream Theater/Channel ‘Noli’ Eddie Romero directed epic and the Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium which will start free film showing on June 8-10, 2003/8:00 P.M. Among these films are Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon, Tinimbang ka Ngunit Kulang and Tunay na Ina.

Pista ng Kalayaan 2003 will also include cultural and art shows of NCCA, CCP and NPDC, trade fair of 60 private and 22 government exhibitors, nationwide Kalayaan sale by the **62 Philippine Retailers Association** members and the civic-military parade which will highlight the 14 Pinoy Festivals from Sto. Nino to Moriones, Turumba, Higantes to Pahiyas leading to Christmas showcasing a giant pinoy lantern and the final theme float, SA MATATAG NA REPUBLIKA... BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!

The main event is the President’s Address calling for National Unity and Nationhood direct from Zamboanga City to be carried live via microwave satellite to be beamed to Filipino audiences nationwide. (PIA).

KALAYAAN 2003 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME/VENUE
KUROT-PUSO (A showcase of selecterl Filipino feel good movies that speak about commitments, heroism and sense of accountability to the country)	
Cinema One Kapit sa Patalim Damong Ligaw Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon? Bagong Buwan Eskapo Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway Oro, Plata, Mata, Curacha	June 12, 2003, 7:45 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
NBN – 4, IBC-13, RPN-9 will be showing Anak ng Bayan, a 2-hour TV Documentary on the heroic struggles and patriotism of Andres Bonifacio	
ABC-5 will have a weekend film showing on June 7, 8, and 14 focusing on the value of youth and family	
Cultural Center of the Philippines	Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium
Tunay Na Ina	June 10, 2003, 7 p.m.
PISTANG KALAYAANG PILIPINO (This will be a program of cultural shows and other art events that will carry the theme "Pananagutan sa Sining ng Bayan" side by side with exhibits, sales and exhibits on accomplishments relating to the major thrusts of the national government)	
Mga Hiyas ng Awiting Pilipino	June 11, 2003, 6 p.m. Rizal Open Air Auditorium
An Independence Day Eve concert featuring classical guitarist Lester Demetillo flutist Sonny Yangco and Rachelle Gerodias, soprano	
Mga Awiting Makabayan	June 13, 2003, 6 p.m. Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila
Featuring soprano Alexis Edralin, 1999 National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) and tenor Conrado Ong III, both students of the UP College of Music under the tutelage of Prof. Ma. Cecilia Ongsiako-Valeña.	
KALAKALAN, KALIKASAN, KABUHAYAN, AGRIKULTURA, ENERHIYA, AGHAM, TEKNOLOHIYA AT PAGTATANGGOL SA BAYAN	
Theme: Pananagutan ng mga ahensiya at ng mga empleyado ng pamahalaan sa Bayan	
The Ombudsman Chorale	June 13 2003 Shell Area, Rizal Park, Manila
Department of Trade and Industry Chorale	June 14, 2003, 6 p.m.
Manila Symphony Orchestra (Asia's first symphony orchestra in an all-Filipino program of symphonic works, under Prof. Arturo T. Molina, conductor)	June 15, 2003, 6 p.m. Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium
Philippine Air Force Combo	June 16, 2003, 6 p.m.
Philippine Navy Combo	June 17, 2003, 6 p.m.
DOT Presents: Negros Navigations Dancing Porters and Enlist Production Show	June 18, 2003, 6 p.m.
Department of Health Choir, Folk Dance & Modern Dance	June 19, 2003, 6 p.m. Shell Area, Rizal Park, Manila
Department of Interior & Local Government Day	June 20, 2003, 6 p.m.
GHQ All Female Band	June 21, 2003, 6 p.m.
AWIT AT SAYAW: PAGPUPUGAY SA IKA-432 ARAW NG MAYNILA (A celebration of the colorful years of the city with the singing Ambassadors of the City Government of Manila, the Manila City Chorale under the musical direction of Sharon Abesamis	June 22, 2003, 6 p.m. Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium
Department of Transportation and	June 27, 2003, 6 p.m.
Communication Choir	Shell Area, Rizal Park
ROMANTIC DUO	June 29, 2003, 6 p.m. Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium, Manila
The piano duo of Ingrid Sala Santamaria and US based maestro Reynaldo Reyes returns to Rizal Park for the 6th National Concerto of their Romantic Piano Concerto Journey	
SA MATATAG NA REPUBLIKA: BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!	June 11-30, 203, 9 a.m. – 8 PM. Kanlungan ng Sining, Rizal Park, Manila (Back of National Library)
A visual arts exhibit by the Arts Association of the Philippines (AAP)	
ARAW NG PAGPAPAHALAGA SA MGA KASUOTANG PILIPINO	June 11, 2003 Bulwagan ng Diwang Pilipino, DBP Building
LAUNCHING OF THE www.buyphilippines.ph (E-mail Project of SMEs)= The first and only digital shopping mall exclusively for the Philippine made products and service	June 11, 2003 Bulwagan ng Diwang Pilipino
CONCERT DUBBED "ANG GALING MO PILIPINO" A one-hour presentation featuring the DBP Chorale, DBP Dancers and guest artist Anna Fegi	June 10-11, 2003
INDEPENDENCE DAY/SME TRADE FAIR 60 private and 22 government agencies	June 11-22, 2003 Rizal Park
INDEPENDENCE DAY SALE	
Members of the Philippine Retailers Association	June 8-11, 2003
All SM outlets	June 1-15, 2003
Naga City (13 Establishments)	June 8-12, 2003
Bulacan (7 department stores and supermarkets)	
Region I (Ilocos Norte, Dagupan City, San Fernando, La Union) 14 establishments	
PAGTATAAS NG WATAWAT (Simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying at the designated venues nationwide)	June 12, 2003, 7 a.m.
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo	General Santos City
Vice-President Teofisto Guingona Jr.	General Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite
NEDA DG Romulo L. Neri	Iloilo City
DILG Secretary Jose Lina Jr.	Bonifacio Monument, Caloocan City
Mayor Benjamin S. Lim	Dagupan City
Chief Justice Hilario Davide	Cebu City
MMDA Chairman Bayani F. Fernando	Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila
DepEd Undersecretary Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon	Barasoain Church, Malolos Bulacan
DND Secretary Angelo T. Reyes	Manila North Cemetery
COMELEC Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr.	Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine, San Juan, Manila
ARMM Regional Governor, Dr. Parouk S. Hussin	Cotabato City
Vin d' Honneur	June 12, 2003, 10.30 a.m. Zamboanga City
PALAKASAN SA	June 12, 2003, 10:30 a.m.-
BAGUMBAYAN A demonstration of indigenous Filipino games and sports	Rizal Park, Manila - 2 p.m.
WOW PILIPINAS!	June 12, 2003, 4 p.m. Luneta Grounds infront of
PARADA SA KALAYAAN	Quirino Grandstand
(Independence Day Civic- Military Parade)	
PAKULAY SA KALAYAAN (Special	June 12, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Fireworks Display	Back of Quirino Grandstand, Rizal park.
STREET DANCING	June 12, 2003, 8 p.m. Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Cops say Yunos linked MILF, JI to Metro blasts

From page A1

…leged JI terrrorist serving a 10-year jail sentence in the Philippines for illegal possession of explosives.

"Arrested bombing suspect Saifullah Yunos, aka Mukhlis Yunos, has confessed to his role in the Rizal Day bombing in 2000," Ebdane said, adding that police are hunting five other MILF operatives involved in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people and wounded dozens.

He said the capture of Yunos was a big blow to the joint terrorist operations of the MILF and JI. The MILF, however, has denied any link with Yunos and JI, as well as the existence of a special terror unit within its network.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, police director for intelligence, said that JI leaders Hambali and Faiz Abubakar Bafana provided the funds for the Rizal Day bombings, through al-Ghozi.

"Based on the revelations of al-Ghozi and Yunos, there was a link between JI and the MILF, especially pertaining to training [of Indonesians at Camp Abubakar] and the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings," Verzosa said at the briefing.

Police also presented a diagram linking a series of events in 2000 that led up to the Rizal Day bombings—the capture of the MILF's main stronghold, Camp Abubakar; the declaration of jihad by MILF chair Salamat Hashim; the terrorist planning in Mindanao; the purchase of explosives in Cebu, and the casing of targets in Metro Manila.

During interrogation, Yunos also allegedly admitted taking part in the recent toppling of transmission lines in Mindanao and the MILF attacks in Maigo, Lanao del Norte.

Police said Yunos had been planning to escape abroad with the help of al-Gabri, who was not presented to the media.

"In their arrangement, al-Gabri will help Yunos seek employment abroad later on," Verzosa said. "They knew each other; they had meetings before they traveled (to Manila)."

Police are still trying to establish al-Gabri's links to international terror groups. The PNP, however, filed charges against al-Gabri for violation of the country's immigration laws, saying he was not carrying proper travel documents when he was arrested. *Reports fromTJ Burgonio, AP and AFP*

PAGCOR launches 24-hour emergency medical service

EVERY second counts when saving a person's life. Understanding this fact, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) launches its Hotline 966 emergency medical service to respond to the needs of the people, especially during crucial life-and-death situations.

966 HOTLINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Hotline 966, developed after the success of the 911 system in the United States, receives calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Manning the lines are PAGCOR's own emergency medical technicians (EMTs), who are dispatched immediately after a call has been made. The EMTs, specially trained to provide assistance up to the level of advanced life support, are backed by four fully-equipped Type II ambulances.

"President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction to us was clear: to make the government's presence felt in areas where it is most needed," said PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Genuino.

"PAGCOR is already active in all areas of community service such as beautification, streetlighting, and provision of police vehicles to promote peace and order. We realized that this ambulance service system will not only save countless lives, it will have the highest impact on the poor," he added.

Genuino said he conceived the idea for Hotline 966, when he realized the inadequacy of the present ambulance services available to the general public.

"The sad fact is people die on their way to the hospital because of the lack of proper transport and insufficient training of personnel handling the emergency cases," he lamented. "By creating the Hotline 966 system, we make sure that they have a greater chance of survival."

"Before transport to the hospital, our EMTs would already institute measures to stabilize the patient. Hindi na yung 'scoop-and-run,'" explained Dr. Julius Drilon, head of the PAGCOR Emergency Medical Services Section which is the under the state-run gaming firm's Community Relations Department.

Even while mobile, the EMTs can continue stabilizing the patient as the ambulances are equipped with state-of-the-art, life-saving machines such as ventilators, defibrillators and communication equipment. In fact, PAGCOR's ambulances can be referred to as "mini-hospitals" or "emergency room-on-wheels."

Aside from possessing the necessary medical backgrounds, PAGCOR EMTs undergo rigid training on paramedic courses and even defensive driving every six months to maintain their level of efficiency and quality of service. They are directly managed by a medical control officer who is a trained emergency room physician.

People using their cellular phones or other telephone lines (i.e. Bayantel, Globelines, Digitel, etc.) can access PAGCOR's emergency medical services through these numbers: (02) 525-1393/96, (02) 525-1428/31/47.

Clockwise from above: President Arroyo consoles a bereaved family member of one of the mv San Nicolas tragedy while an injured survivor is rushed by PAGCOR's Emergency Medical Technicians to a waiting ambulance. Meanwhile, EMTs load another injured to PAGCOR's fully-equipped 911-type ambulance during rescue operations last Sunday, May 25.

To the rescue!

A fire rages in a slum community... A woman calls on the telephone and complains of dizziness and chest pains... a boy is hit by a vehicle and immediately needs to be transported to the hospital...

These are just some of the instances where PAGCOR's Hotline 966 has shown its mettle in saving lives. Hotline 966 is envisioned to be a quick response service for all types of medical emergencies in the country.

It works this way:

A person who dials 966 on a PLDT landline telephone will be answered by a properly trained medical dispatcher. He will get the caller's pertinent details like the name, address and telephone number. The dispatcher will instruct the caller what to do – such as applying basic first aid measures – while the Hotline 966 ambulances are sent to the location of the caller or the patient.

Inside the ambulance, Hotline 966's Emergency's Medical Technicians (EMTs) can apply resuscitative measures, such as putting IV fluids or giving life-saving drugs. The goal is to stabilize the patient before he reaches the hospital and is turned over to the attending health personnel. It must be noted that PAGCOR's EMTs are trained in basic up to advanced life support. They follow universally-accepted operating procedures which are of course geared toward's saving the patient's life.

PAGCOR's Hotline 966 emergency service displayed its heroism recently when it heeded President Arroyo's appeal to help victims of the Superferry 12-MV San Nicolas collision last May 25.

The state gaming firm's type II ambulances were among the first to arrive at the Philippine Coast Guard headquarters on the fateful day that the victims of the sea mishap arrived in Manila.

One of those saved by the PAGCOR ambulance team was MV San Nicolas passenger Chamaine Aguilar who was transported to Jose R. Reyes Memorial Hospital for treatment of the head injuries she sustained during the mid-sea collision. Chamaine was with some members of her family when the collision occurred.

Another person rescued by the PAGCOR team was 22-year old student Marissa de Guia who sustained third-degree burns on her right hand. Recalling the horrors of the accident, Marissa said, "Magtatanghali na yun nang biglang nagpanic ang mga tao. Ni walang nagsabi sa amin na magsuot ng life jacket. Mabuti na lang nakapagsuot ako bago lumubog ang barko. Tatlong oras din kaming nasa laot bago dumating ang mga lifeboats. (It was almost noontime when my fellow passengers panicked. Nobody told us to wear life jackets. It was good that I wore one before the ship sanked. We were floating in the sea for three hours before the lifeboats came)," she said.

"By leading in rescue efforts for the victims of the MV San Nicolas accident, PAGCOR has once again demonstrated that it is proactive in community service and is committed to deliver the highest standards of emergency," Chairman Genuino said.

A survivor is checked by EMTs onboard PAGCOR's "emergency room-on-wheels."

ADVT.

No bath

From page A1

…tary and high school students to take a bath before going to school was doused with cold water yesterday, with Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus himself holding the pail.

Who will smell 19 million students each day to check if they had in fact taken a bath, De Jesus asked.

De Jesus said such a policy would not and could not be enforced. He said he talked with Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who explained that Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman had been misquoted and that his "no bath, no school" proposal was not policy but a mere suggestion.

"We cannot strip a student of his or her right to study just because he or she did not take a bath," De Jesus told reporters.

De Jesus said the government would not know what to do if a student accused of not taking a bath challenged the accusation.

He pointed out that it would be impractical and a waste of time for teachers to check on all the students, smelling them one by one at the school gate or classroom door. Some "naughty" children could also cheat by merely wetting their hair, he said.

De Jesus said the DepEd would emphasize that students practice good personal hygiene habits at all times. He said students would only be encouraged to take a bath daily and make it a habit.

The DepEd has been active in the campaign for cleanliness among students and in school surroundings. The recent Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare had triggered concerns about the health and safety of children in government-run schools.

But aside from SARS, the department would orient students on how to prevent communicable diseases such as lice infestation, "*luga*" (otitis media), dengue fever, leptospirosis and tuberculosis, as well as tooth decay and malnutrition.

Parents and community leaders are undergoing orientation seminars on SARS and other diseases this week. Teachers conducting the seminars distribute leaflets on basic cleanliness, water safety, SARS and other health topics.

DepEd's Health and Nutrition Center said students would be reminded of rules against spitting, coughing and sneezing in public without covering their mouth, and littering.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani admitted that some public elementary and secondary students in several parts of the country went to classes yesterday even though they were supposed to do so next week.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dead woman's cell phone leads NBI to suspects

By Luige del Puerto

A NOKIA 3310 gave away the main suspect in the killing of a mother and child in GMA (General Mariano Alvarez), Cavite last June 1.

Mark Molina was arrested last Friday for the killing of Annabelle Quilaton Zuniga, 23, and her daughter Franchez Erika, 3, in their home in Cavite. National Bureau of Investigation agents found the victim's cell phone on the suspect.

Zuniga's sister identified the cell phone as the victim's property, the NBI said.

The NBI also arrested Michael Molina and Sherwin Kenneth Dimasalang. A fourth man, Jojo Dimasalang, remained at large, the NBI said.

Cavite NBI officer Danielito Lalusis told reporters that a neighbor had seen Molina and "other persons" jump off the concrete fence of the victim's house at LRT Site, Barangay J. De Jesus, GMA at around 7 p.m. on June 1.

A few hours later, Zuniga and her daughter were found dead by neighbors, the NBI said.

Zuniga was found naked and hogtied, with a blanket stuffed in her mouth. She had been stabbed five times. Erika was found wrapped in a blanket, with a cord tied around her neck.

Erika's father, an officer of the US Air Force, has been notified of his family's death and is on his way home, the NBI said.

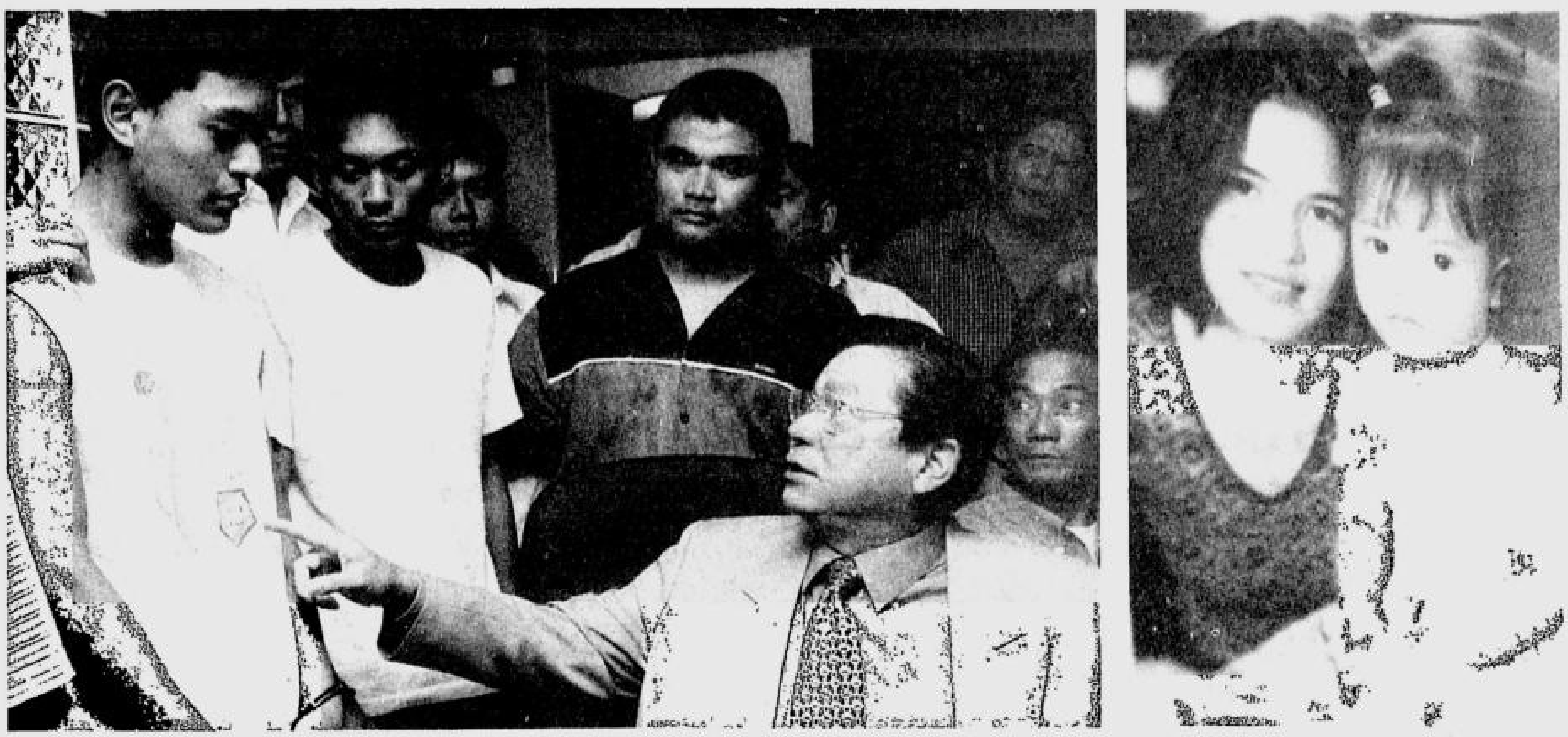
During initial investigation, the suspects' names cropped up, and a witness identified Mark Molina as one of four men who jumped off the fence. NBI agents said they expect more witnesses to come out in the next few days.

Lalusis said the suspects were members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity and were known as neighborhood toughies.

Packets of shabu were found on the suspects. They were tested for drugs and were found positive, the NBI said.

The suspects had been charged with double homicide and attempted rape before the Cavite Prosecutor's Office.

Mark Molina denied involvement in the twin murders.



NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco points to two men suspected of killing a mother and her daughter in Cavite on June 1. On the right is a picture of the victims Annabelle Zuniga, 23, and her daughter Franchez Erika, 3.

ERIK ARAZAS

In Atienza's book, Manila police officers barely make the grade

By Margaux Ortiz

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza last Friday gave the city police force a barely passing grade in its recent effort to make Manila a safer and more orderly place for residents.

But Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District director, yesterday said that Atienza could have been misquoted when the mayor made the remark.

"I was with him during our command conference (last Friday) and all he did was commend us on our accomplishment report and our vital role in Oplan Balik Paaralan."

In the same conference, Atienza had told reporters that he was frustrated with the Manila police, despite recent improvement in their services.

In rating the policemen, Atienza said that this year, "they get a 'pasang-awa' (barely passing) grade."

He also said that the crime rate in Manila would go down if police would improve their record of arrests.

Atienza also claimed that many of the city's policemen were still in the dark about Manila's ordinances.

"They still have a lot to do, especially in improving the city's traffic condition, apprehending petty criminals and making communities more organized," Atienza had said.

But Bulaong yesterday said the police force has a high crime solution efficiency rating of 97 percent, adding that Atienza was very happy with the scarcity of cases of kidnapping, bank robberies, armored van robberies, and car theft in the city.

Bulaong admitted that Atienza had urged Manila policemen to put more effort in the enforcement of ordinances.

The WPD chief said that both new and newly transferred lawmen in the service have a problem with enforcement because they are not familiar with the ordinances.

"That is why the mayor supported our proposal for the immediate construction of a police academy to refresh our cops with their knowledge of laws and ordinances so they could do their jobs better," Bulaong said.

But the police academy project is still on standby because of lack of funds, Bulaong said.

Atienza had stressed that the Manila police should not rest on their laurels, but strive to do better, especially in implementing ordinances.

Fires break out in Marikina, QC; 2 children die

By Alcuin Papa and Nelson Flores

TWO children were killed when fire raged through a residential area in Cubao, Quezon City, and a cigarette warehouse in Marikina City yesterday.

The children Jamaica Serrano, 3, and her brother Jerome, nine months old, of 67 Yale St., Cubao, were trapped on the third floor of their house.

The fire which started at around 3:30 p.m. gutted some 15 houses along adjacent Oxford Street.

Arson investigators are probing whether the blaze was accidentally started by one of the children after an uncle, Eddie Serrano, saw them playing with a lighter before the blaze.

The fire was put out at 5:05 p.m.

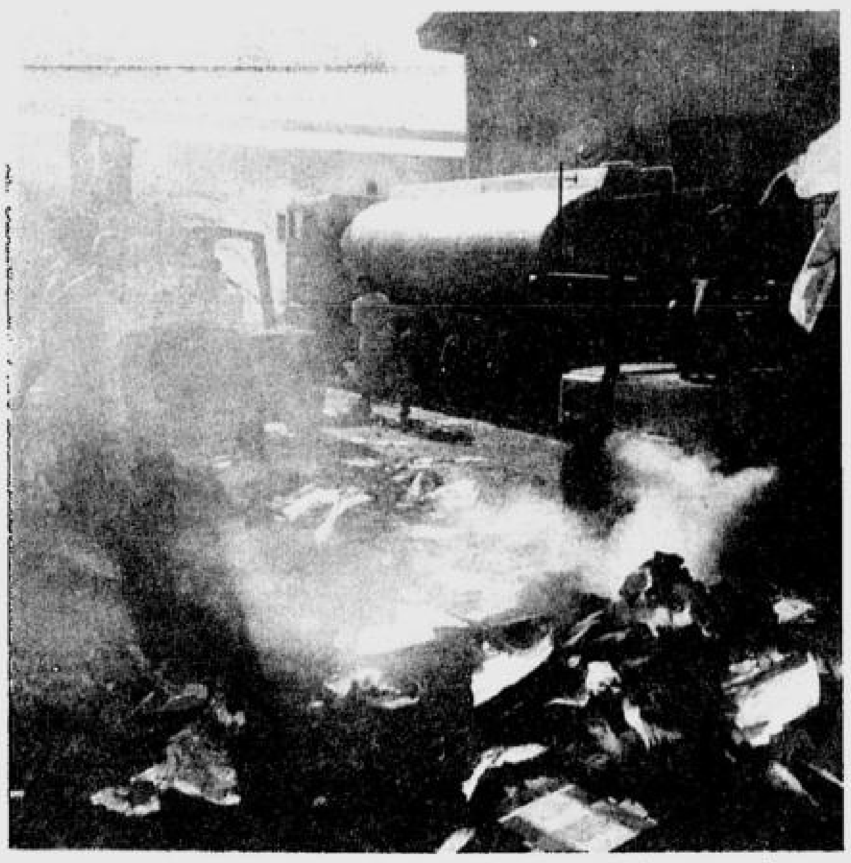
Earlier in the afternoon, fire again struck the Fortune Tobacco Corp. compound in Marikina.

The blaze that began at around 1:32 p.m. destroyed a warehouse along J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Nangka.

Firemen put out the blaze after more than an hour.

Last Friday, a fire of still unknown origin damaged another warehouse along Champaca Street in Barangay Parang.

No one was reported injured in both incidents. Damage to property was still undertermined at press time.



FOR the second time in four days, fire has hit the Fortune Tobacco warehouse of Lucio Tan in Marikina.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Paranoia, jealousy trigger hostage-taking of 4 kids

By Leila Salaverria and Tina Santos

ALLEGED paranoia and jealousy reportedly led two fathers to hold four children hostage in separate incidents in the cities of Makati and Caloocan.

At 5:30 a.m. yesterday, 37-year-old Rigoberto Manalang grabbed his two young daughters and poked a knife at them inside their house on Mockingbird Street, Barangay Rizal, Makati, after expresseing fear for his life.

According to Angelisa Caliva, Manalang's common-law-wife, her husband began acting strangely on Sunday afternoon, acting agitated and sporting a knife in his waistband.

Manalang reportedly claimed that there were people on their roof and outside their window who wanted to kill him.

Yesterday morning, Manalang suddenly took hostage his daughters aged four and five while shouting at his alleged would-be killers to leave him alone.

Police negotiators pleaded with Manalang to release the children to no avail. However, two-and-a-half hours into the hostage taking, he agreed to let his wife go.

As Caliva was about to leave, she saw Manalang loosen his grip on the knife so she slapped it away.

Members of the Makati City Special Weapons and Tactics team then stormed in and overpowered Manalang.

Manalang is now detained at the Makati Police Headquarters.

Caliva told the police that Manalang had been using illegal drugs since 1995.

In Caloocan, Carlos Eugenio, 52, came home at around 11:45 a.m. Sunday and suddenly dragged his two sons, aged six and nine, into their house at Phase 6, Purok 3.

Poking a knife at the two boys, Eugenio began shouting invectives at his wife, Shirley, whom he accused of having an affair with another man.

Neighbors immediately reported the incident to the police and Police Officers 2 Michael Miranda and Rommel Mirablanca responded.

The lawmen began talking to Eugenio and were able to distract his attention.

Grabbing the opportunity, they jumped on Eugenio and took the knife away from him.

He has been charged with serious illegal detention.

Let's not judge Bishop Bacani

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

LET'S not judge Catholic Bishop Teodoro Bacani on allegations that he sexually molested a woman on his staff.

Remember what Jesus said: "He who is without sin should cast the first stone."

Guilty or not, Bacani is a human being like you and me.

* * *

While Bacani virtually admitted the accusations against him, his spokesperson, Rev. Romulo Ranada, denies any wrongdoing on the part of his boss.

Ranada said that while Bacani might have expressed his affections inappropriately, there was no malice in his actions. He said the gestures did not constitute sexual harassment.

Ikaw naman, Padre, inamin na nga ng amo mo, humihirit ka pa!

Either you're too naive or you're trying to lie for your boss, which is worse.

* * *

The Catholic Church in the Philippines should come down from its high horse and tackle the problem of immorality among priests and bishops.

The Church can't sweep the dirt under the rug and expect it to disappear.

Some day, the dirt will come out when the rug is removed. Like what's happening now.

* * *

The Church can't adopt a holier-than-thou attitude while many of its priests and bishops are siring children or fornicating with women parishioners and prostitutes.

Many Filipino Catholics know about the scandalous lives of their parish priests and bishops.

But they prefer to keep quiet for fear of incurring the wrath of God. You see, the Church has taught its faithful not to criticize priests because they're supposed to be representatives of Jesus Christ on earth.

In short, men of the cloth are beyond reproach even if they're living scandalously.

* * *

Some priests are not discreet when they go womanizing; they even flaunt their vocation.

Many years ago, I was taking a shower at a sauna bath-cum-massage parlor in Quezon City when I heard a commotion outside. The attendants were shouting: "*Ay, si Father, nanghihipo ng p***!*"

From where I was, I could tell that the attendants were running away from the guy they were calling "Father."

* * *

The guy, in his 30s, entered the shower room just as some attendants' shouts of "*manyakis na pari*" faded in the background.

Curious, I asked the guy what diocese he was assigned, pretending to be casual about it.

He gave me the name of the diocese. I happened to know a priest in that diocese and asked after that priest. He said that he was a new priest in the diocese but the guy I mentioned had been there a long time.

* * *

"By the way, why are you asking?" he confronted me.

I said that I was curious why a priest like him would be so brazen as to flaunt his identity.

"So, what! It's none of your business!" he said.

I told him pointblank: "That's why many people are leaving the Church because of priests like you. Shame on you!"

* * *

When I was commentator of a Catholic radio station years ago, I observed that priests who were running the station were openly quarreling among themselves, ignoring the laypersons who were their subordinates.

I learned that the priests were fighting over turf and money.

The top honcho, a bigwig in the local Catholic Church, was having an affair with his secretary whom he supported with money earned by the radio station. The secretary, a quiet, virginal type, was able to build a big house and buy a fleet of jeepneys in her hometown in Bulacan.

* * *

Why is there so much hullabaloo over the reimposition of a presidential directive requiring all cars, buses and trucks to have an emergency warning device (EWD)?

The EWD is a must for all motor vehicles. It's a triangular device that is luminous at night. Its purpose is to warn oncoming vehicles that there's a stalled car ahead.

Many accidents in the highways took place because cars rammed the back of a stalled vehicle at night. Such accidents could have been prevented if the stalled vehicles had an EWD placed at least 20 meters behind them.

* * *

The Land Transportation Office (LTO), the agency that is reimposing the EWD directive, is at the center of the controversy.

If the EWD requirement is not attended by graft, why should vehicle owners complain?

The EWD is meant to save lives. What's a few pesos if it means saving lives?

METROBRIEFS

He forgot to pull the pin

A MAN lobbed a grenade and stabbed one of his friends before dawn yesterday in Manila. The grenade failed to explode because the suspect forgot to pull the pin, police said. The man, identified only as Reynaldo and said to be a shop helper went to his friends' house on Batangas Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, to ask them to accompany him in taking on another group that had ganged up on the suspect. When his friends refused, the suspect threw the grenade and stabbed Arturo Belero, 25. Belero was taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, police said.

Luige del Puerto

Woman beheaded

A 57-YEAR-OLD woman yesterday was beheaded when a van and two trucks hit her in Muntinlupa yesterday. PO2 Cecilio Tomas said Josefina Tina, a dishwasher at a Pepsi plant and a resident of San Pedro, Laguna, also lost both her hands when an aluminum van driven by Benjie Merijildo hit her as she was crossing the National Road in Barangay Tunasan at around 4:30 a.m. The driver told police that after he hit Tina, two other trucks also hit the victim as she lay on the road.

Leila Salaverria

Laborer stabbed

LABORER Jay Gallanza, 21, was stabbed to death in Quezon City Sunday night. Police said Gallanza, of Nitang Avenue, Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, was walking home at around 7:30 p.m. when Bernardo Besda, Ronaldo Besda and Michael Ramirez attacked the victim, beating him up and stabbing him repeatedly. Gallanza died at the Novaliches General Hospital, police said. Responding lawmen arrested Bernardo Besda, 44. Police are now looking for the other suspects.

Alcuin Papa, Amy Remo

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(In exact order)

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8 7 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
14 18 19 23 26 31

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Wanted: 'Good-looking' traffic enforcers

By Dona Pazzibugan

THIS job requires one to be tall, smart and, most importantly, good-looking.

No, it is not a search for beauty pageant candidates but the Metro Manila Development Authority is looking for a "new breed' of traffic enforcers.

The MMDA yesterday laid out its recruitment plan during a briefing for President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang "war room."

MMDA Assistant General Manager Cora Cruz informed the President that among their plans were to "upgrade and professionalize" traffic enforcers.

"We are in the process of producing a new breed of traffic officers that possess the necessary knowledge, attitude and skills to do traffic management," she said.

Cruz disclosed that would-be traffic enforcers must be college graduates and at least 5' 6" tall for men and 5' 4" for women.

"(They must be) physically and mentally fit, and of course good-looking," Cruz said, drawing laughter from the audience.

"*Baka makakuha kayo* (*ng kaaway sa*) civil society *d'yan* (You might make enemies from civil society with that)," a laughing Macapagal-Arroyo said.

Cruz did not elaborate what she meant with "good-looking."

Most MMDA traffic enforcers today do not have college degrees. Some are former Metro Aides, or street sweepers, who were trained in traffic management.

Daily exposure to harsh weather, air pollution and irate motorists have not helped them maintain whatever good looks they may have had.

The MMDA began imposing its new requirements early this year.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, in an earlier interview, said traffic enforcers needed a height advantage. "It looks good to have taller enforcers."

As to hiring women traffic enforcers, Vergel de Dios said motorists cited for traffic violation were "less likely to argue with a woman."

He added that "women tended to be more honest than men."

He said they would require a college degree so that a traffic enforcer could also be trained in rescue, first aid and other MMDA operations.

The new requirements were expected to dump gasoline into the already fiery image of MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando.

LTO chief gets President's ire

LAND Transportation Office chief Roberto Lastimoso got a severe tongue-lashing from President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday for the proliferation of "fixers" in the agency.

She was already in a foul mood when she paid a surprise visit to the LTO headquarters on East Avenue, Quezon City, around 4 p.m.

She blew her top when she learned that the employees have been gone by 4 p.m., an hour before the end of office hours.

Lastimoso himself was no longer around when the President arrived.

So his head executive assistant, Mariano Gui, was on the receiving end of the President's infamous temper.

She talked to some of the people there, who complained about the incompetence of LTO employees. She confronted Gui with the complainants.

When Lastimoso arrived an hour later, he immediately got a dressing-down.

Apparently Ms Macapagal has sent someone to spy on the LTO's transactions. She told Lastimoso about the "fixers" in the agency.

She told Lastimoso that as a former police chief, he should have known from his own spies about any illegal transactions.

The President also suspended the LTO's collection of the early warning device fee.

This year the LTO required all vehicle owners who would register to buy the device from them for P485. The device can be bought for about P150 elsewhere, the President angrily informed Lastimoso.

Ms Macapagal was also incensed that the LTO did not have any security measures to prevent any terrorist attack, pointing out that there were no security guards screening the people who enter the building. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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PNP admits error in PBA drug test

Torion out of rehab

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE officials yesterday reluctantly admitted they had erred when they leaked to the media last week the results of drug tests on the urine samples of PBA players, which league officials later called a breach of protocol.

Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. made the admission yesterday even as he disclosed that he had reprimanded the chief of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for leaking the results of the drug tests.

"I don't want to talk about the PBA results because that should not have been released in the first place," he said when asked how he would deal with policemen who would demand a re-test, like some PBA players, if found positive for drug use

The national police is conducting its own random drug testing for police officers in compliance with the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Ebdane admitted that he also "castigated" Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, chief of the PNP Crime Laboratory, "for touching on that particular issue," which should have been handled by the PBA.

"Of all the testings, that's supposed to be confidential. Otherwise, nobody would cooperate with us," he told reporters in an ambush interview.

Upon repeated queries from reporters, Mosqueda last week disclosed that urine samples of 14 out of 21 PBA players tested positive for use of banned substances during confirmatory tests by the crime laboratory.

Mosqueda however declined to identify the PBA players, explaining that the specimens were numerically coded.

The next day, PBA officials cried foul and pointed out that the 14 PBA players who tested positive for drug use belonged to an old list.

The PBA did not file a protest, but other pro league officials noted that the leakage was a breach of protocol.

That same day, Mosqueda was warned by Ebdane not to disclose anymore test results to the media.

Urine samples of PBA players which are found positive for drug use during screening tests conducted by the health department are sent to the PNP Crime Laboratory for confirmatory tests.

The PBA has been rocked by scandal after some PBA players, including those who have a clean image, tested positive for drug use and were immediately slapped with indefinite suspensions.

Except for Jimwell Torion who readily owned up to the offense, all the others who tested positive in the drug check have professed innocence.

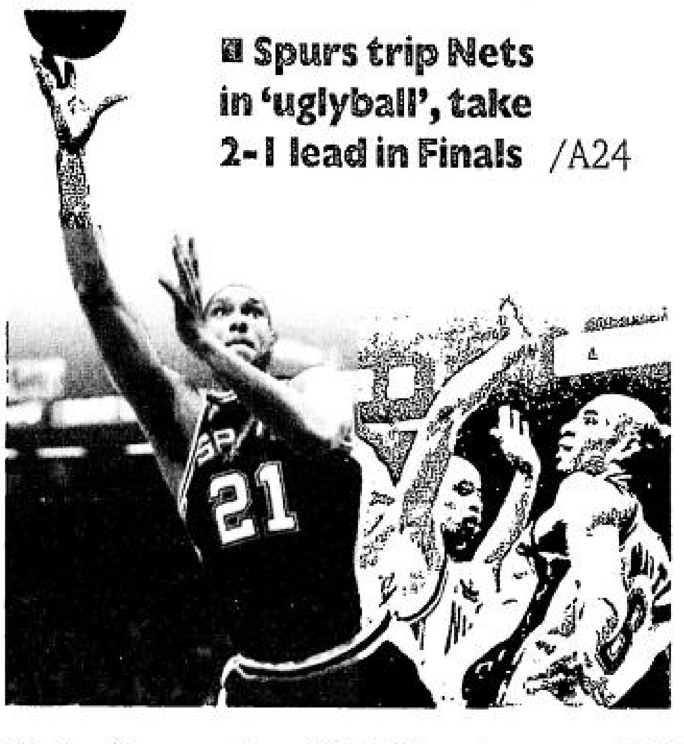
Meanhile, Torion has been released after undergoing over a month of drug counseling from Life Management Inc., an accredited drug rehabilitation center of the Department of Health.

Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said the peppery point guard attended the Thunder's practice on Saturday but was only allowed to join on a few practice drills.

In another development, Talk N Text officials said Gonzales, David and Locsin will try to secure a certification from the Department of Health endorsing their exemption from rehab.

With a report from J. Navarro

WHAT'S INSIDE



Spurs trip Nets in 'uglyball', take 2-1 lead in Finals /A24

Manila eyed as SEAG host /A25

Big payoff for Jenny in LPGA /A26

Ferrero beats Verkerk /A26

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: 2001 US Open Official Film; 9 a.m. (r); ESPN - Reminisce on all the glorious moments capped off by Retief Goosen's triumph two years back.

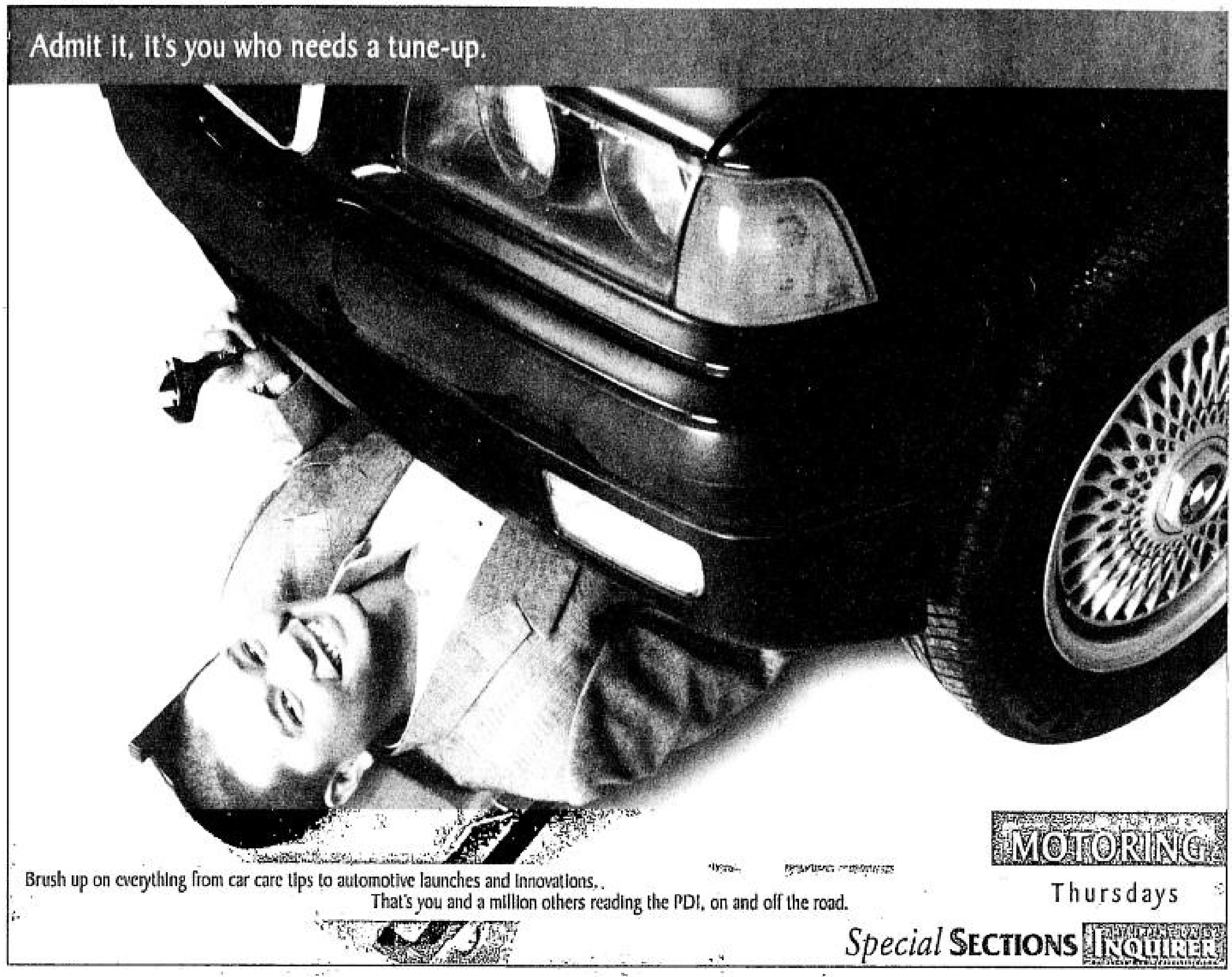
2003 US Open Preview; 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.(r); ESPN - Find out the favorites in this year's tournament.

TENNIS: Wimbledon Films - Double the Fun; 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r); Rivalries; 8 p.m.; Star Sports - Check interesting highlights from past editions of the world's most prestigious tennis tournament on grass.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2003 Monaco Grand Prix Highlights; 9 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Take a look back at how Juan Pablo Montoya conquered the course in Monte Carlo.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8 a.m. (r - 1 p.m.) and 5:30 p.m.; ESPN - Earl Strickland goes up against Ronnie O'Sullivan and Tommy Donlon, respectively in separate matches.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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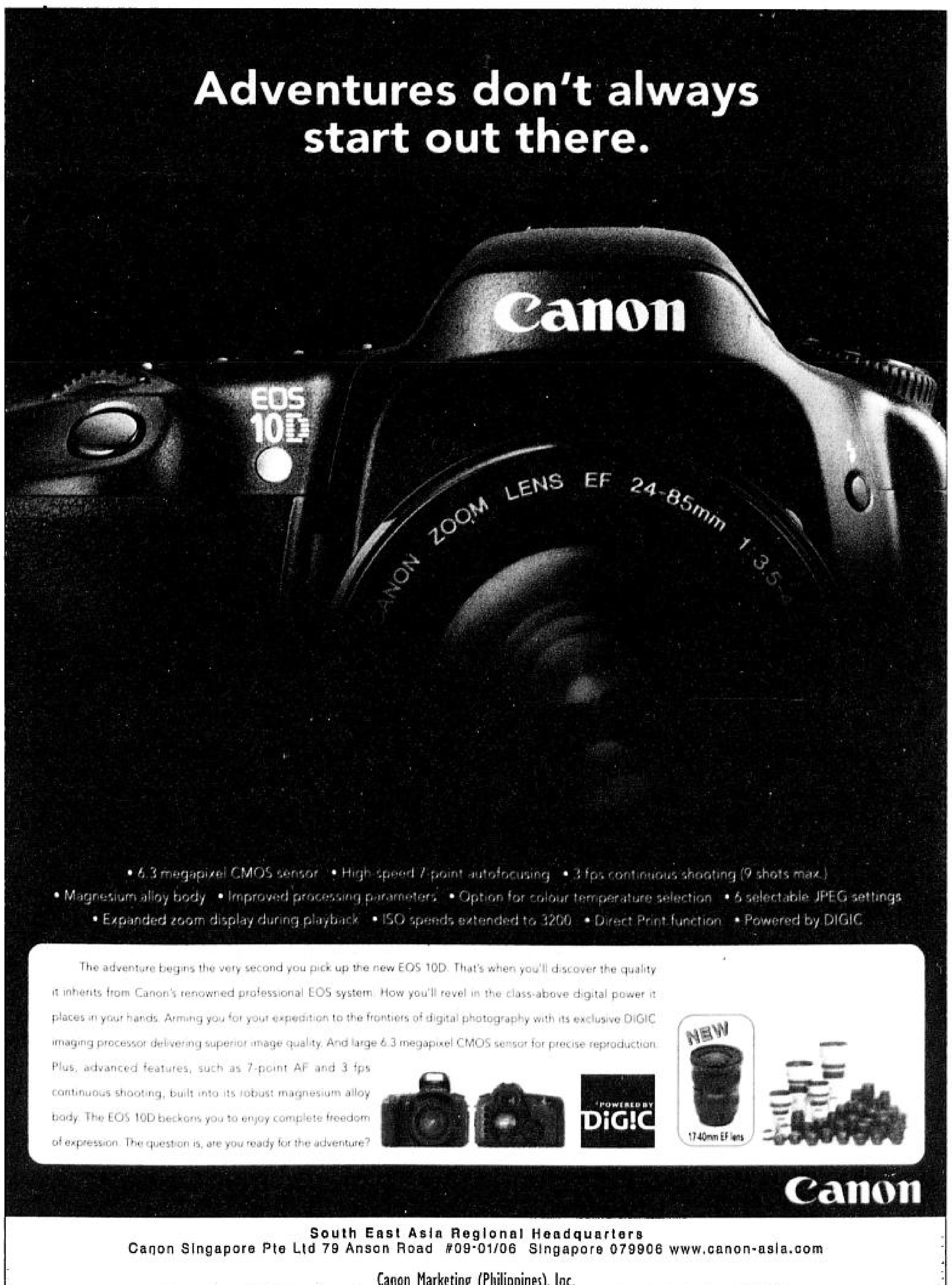
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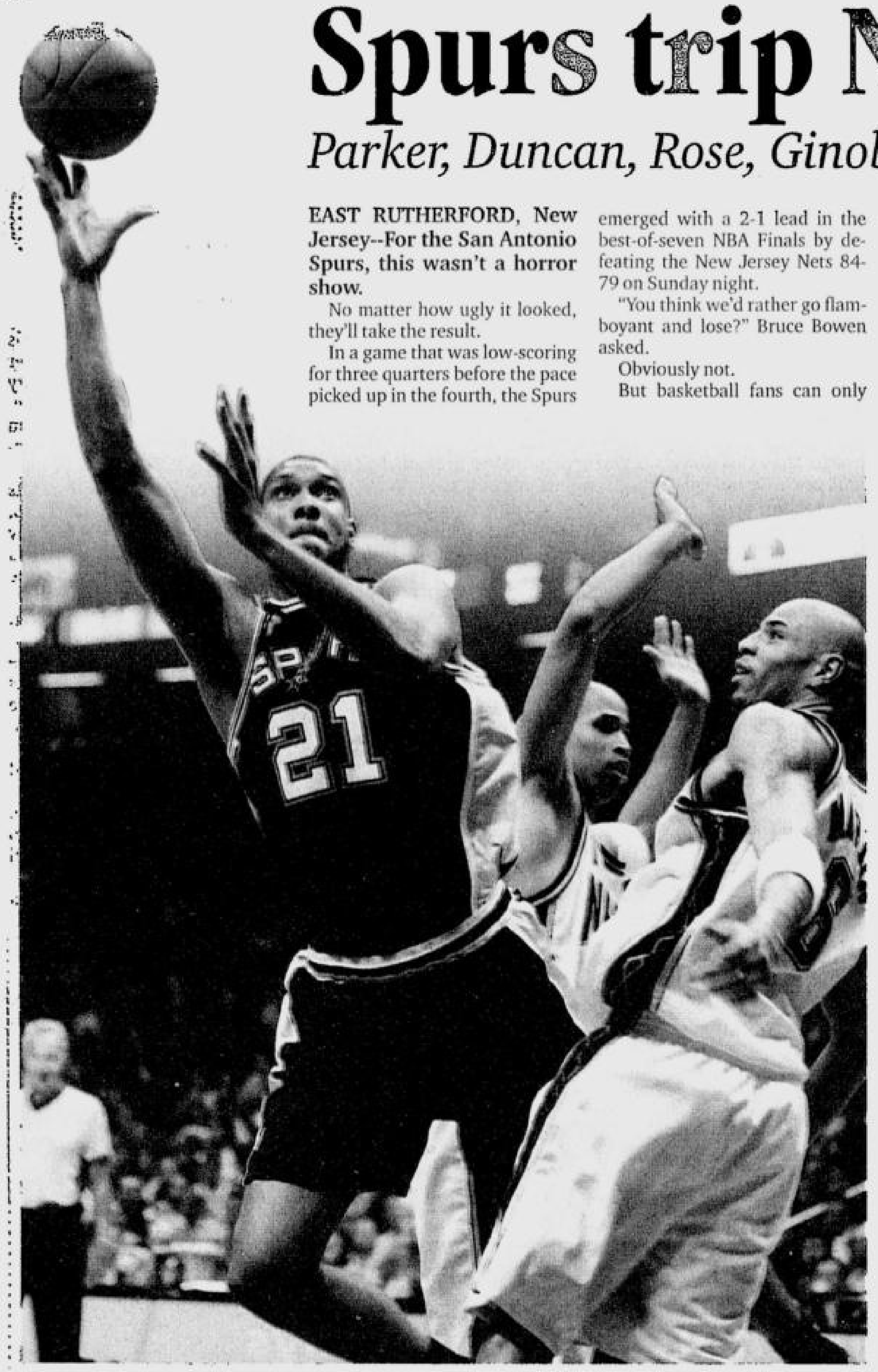
Spurs trip Nets in 'uglyball'

Parker, Duncan, Rose, Ginobili step up as San Antonio takes 2-1 lead



DUNCAN (left) unleashes a semi-hook against New Jersey's Richard Jefferson and Kenyon Martin. AFP

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey--For the San Antonio Spurs, this wasn't a horror show.

No matter how ugly it looked, they'll take the result.

In a game that was low-scoring for three quarters before the pace picked up in the fourth, the Spurs emerged with a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals by defeating the New Jersey Nets 84-79 on Sunday night.

"You think we'd rather go flamboyant and lose?" Bruce Bowen asked.

Obviously not.

But basketball fans can only hope for something a little more aesthetically pleasing than the gruesome offensive display that included the lowest-scoring first half in the history of the NBA Finals.

Led by Tony Parker, Malik Rose and Tim Duncan, the Spurs took control with a 14-3 run to open the fourth quarter and held off the Nets down the stretch.

How unsightly was it?

The winning team committed 17 turnovers, missed 12 foul shots, tossed up numerous airballs and even had players bickering at each other after a series of botched plays in the first quarter.

"That's what it takes to set basketball back 20 years," Rose said.

Added David Robinson: "It was really, really ugly. We had a rhythm for about 5 minutes, that's it."

Duncan, the league MVP, had a night that was nothing too special by his standards, scoring 21 points with 16 rebounds — the 15th of which was most crucial. Parker added 26 points — two off his career playoff high — to make up for San Antonio's lack of any other double-digit scorers.

San Antonio improved to 7-3 on the road in this year's playoffs with its fifth consecutive victory away from home.

Game 4 is Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila).

The final score didn't accurately indicate how bad the offenses were for three quarters. The teams combined to score 55 points in the fourth quarter after totaling only 111 through the first three periods.

"It was like a European game. Everybody was struggling," Parker said.

The Nets had the lowest-scoring second quarter — nine points — in NBA Finals history.

Kenyon Martin scored 23 and Kerry Kittles 21 for the Nets. Jason Kidd struggled with his shot all night — just as a lot of players did— and finished 6-for-19 for 12 points with 11 assists. He also had four of the Nets' 20 turnovers, and Martin had five.

"It's not a major setback. It's a minor setback right now," Nets coach Byron Scott said.

San Antonio again made heavy use of a zone defense to fluster the Nets, whose half-court offense was pathetic for most of the second quarter.

When Martin made a foul shot with 1:46 left in the third, the teams had finally combined for 100 points. New Jersey led 57-54 entering the fourth.

"It was our offense against their zone. It kind of stagnated and slowed us down. It is frustrating out there. You beat the first guy and you still got two 7-footers back there," Nets guard Lucious Harris said.

Rose had three momentum-altering baskets in the first five minutes of the fourth. The first was a ferocious dunk over Dikembe Mutombo for the first points of the quarter.

"It was my first time to get him. I forgot to wave the finger afterward," Rose said. "I'm after a poster of that one."

Rose's second was another dunk that started the Spurs' 8-0 run, the third was a 2-footer from the lane after Rose faked out three defenders.

The last one gave the Spurs a 68-60 lead — their largest — and forced the Nets to call timeout.

Parker scored San Antonio's next five points by following up his own miss and converting a layup, then hitting his fourth 3-pointer in as many attempts. The 3 gave San Antonio a 73-62 edge with 5:21 left.

The Nets got back in it, pulling to 77-71. Two free throws by Harris, an airball by Parker and a dunk by Williams made it a two-point game.

The Nets never shot for the tie as Manu Ginobili stripped the ball from Harris, but Parker missed two free throws.

Duncan grabbed the offensive rebound, and Parker drove baseline and found Ginobili open in the corner. He took one dribble in and made a 12-footer — the biggest shot of the game — for an 80-75 lead with 43 seconds left.

Kittles missed a runner and Williams missed a putback, leading to Duncan's 16th rebound with 31 seconds left. The Spurs wrapped it up from there at the free-throw line, with Duncan calmly hitting two for an 82-75 lead.

"We played the game the whole way through, which was a difference from the game before," Duncan said. "We have the opportunity to go into Game 4, get another one and really put them on their backs." *AP*

NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 2, Nets 1

Game 1: San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2: New Jersey 87, San Antonio 85
Game 3: San Antonio 84 , New Jersey 79
Game 4 at New Jersey (June 12, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8:30 a.m.)

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Write to press, not to impress

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ONE of my favorite columnists was Mike Royko of Chicago. His wit was unmatched, his sarcasm razor-sharp, his straightforward style without equal. But his real forte was his stinging rebuke, more than his usual lyrical prose, of oppression in society when he wrote in defense of the downtrodden, about the wretchedness of the filthy rich, the hypocrisy of people, and the scumbags in the corridors of powers.

Wrote Mike Royko when asked what he thought about teenagers: "The finest teenager I ever knew was Slats Grobnik, who devoted his formative years to useless activities. He knew that in a few short years he would have to go out and get a job and begin doing something useful. And, on his 40th birthday, he did. As Slats always said about work: `If it's so good, how come they have to pay you to do it?'"

I guess we also have our own Slats Grobnik. He would be the guy who'd give a job to any job seeker who comes to him. When our Slats gets asked by the recruit how much money he'd get for his services, Slats would say: "I've given you a job already. What the hell do you need the salary for?"

On happiness, Mike Royko wrote: "Show me somebody who is always smiling, always cheerful, always optimistic, and I will show you somebody who hasn't the faintest idea what the heck is really going on."

A reader wrote Mike Royko: "I have been reading with mixed interest your recent comments concerning Oral Roberts' attempts to raise $8 million. You failed to mention that Oral Roberts built from nothing a fully accredited university and a major medical center. How many people have you helped in your lifetime? It seems the only things you can write about with any expertise are drunks, whores, booze, pimps, crap games, and crooked politicians."

Mike Royko's reply: "Hah! You left out grave robbers, so the laugh's on you."

Another one wrote: "It is marvelous to think of the brain, but it is even more marvelous to think of the soul. When was the last time you thought of your soul?"

Mike Royko's reply: "When I stopped in at Lou's Shoe Repair Shop. I thought of my heels, too."

In Chicago during his time, Mike Royko was the city's Robert Jaworski. He was either loved or hated. No middle ground.

In Chicago during his time, Mike Royko never wrote to invite praise. His peers envied his fame, even as his fame came mostly from an acid pen.

In Chicago during his time, Mike Royko was the most widely read columnist. The city's legendary Mayor Daley (bless his soul) always began his day reading Mike Royko, the man he hated most in his lifetime. Before he breathed his last, Daley was reported to have said, "I'll see that damn Royko in hell." He said that after reading another of Mike Royko's not-so-friendly column - done even when the mayor's time was near.

A fellow columnist of mine recently wrote that column writing decimates friends. I agree. In journalism, as one sage has said, there's no friendship. I also agree. Always, friendship takes a backseat for journalism's sake. I guess Mike Royko took that to heart.

Oh, well, wait. Here's Mike Royko on sports:

"They tell this story about a guy who once fought Archie Moore, the former light-heavyweight boxing champion.

"In the first round, Moore really slammed the guy. He was hit so hard and solidly that he was unconscious when he was carried from the ring. He was still out when they got him to his dressing room. And it took about 15 minutes on the training table before he finally came to.

"Then he staggered to his feet, and on rubbery legs and with crossed eyes he lurched to Moore's dressing room and said:

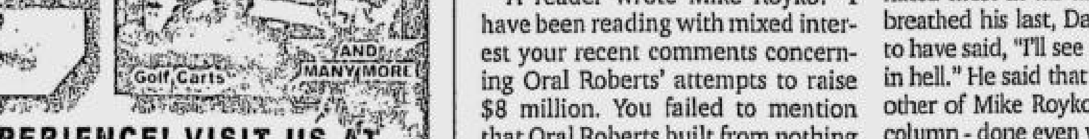
"'Mr. Moore, can I have your autograph?'"

It's a pity that Mike Royko is gone. His Pulitzer Prize-winning columns were syndicated in more than 600 newspapers across the country, the most by a columnist at any given time. I've even read him in newspaper editions on various visits to Tokyo, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and even Sydney during the 2000 Olympics. And yet, he wrote merely to press a point, never to impress.

In 1997, Mike Royko, who saw action in the Korean War, died. He was 65.

***

My condolences to Nana Trude M. Astudillo's relatives and loved ones. Nana Trude's remains lie at Funeraria Paz in Baguio City and will be interred tomorrow (Wednesday). Nana Trude was my baptismal godmother who was also the youngest sister of my late father.



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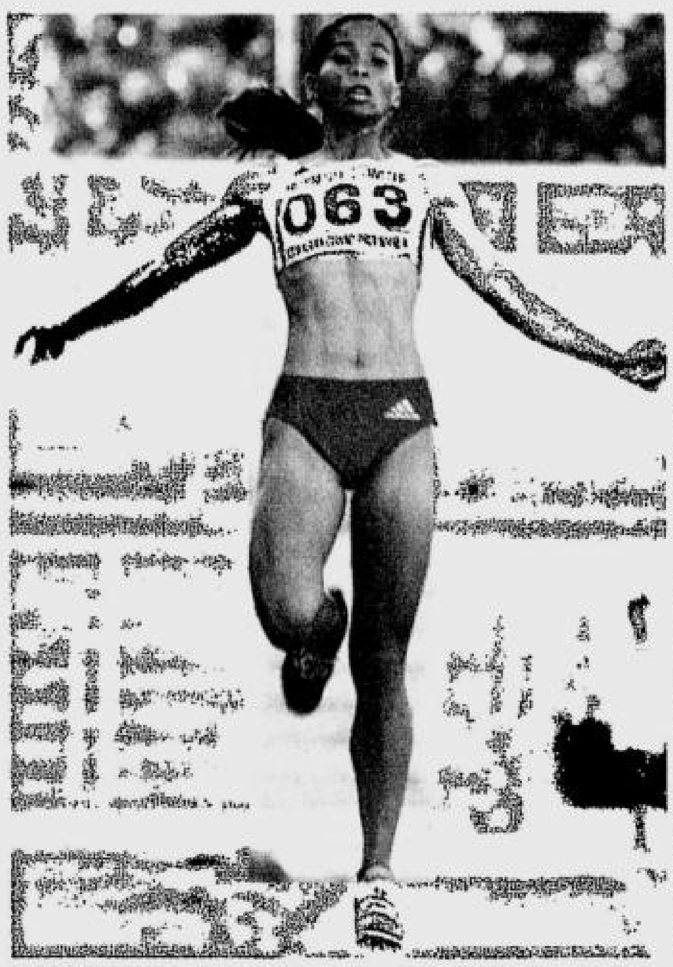
Dennis Orcullo	0	1
Dodong Andam	0	1
Lee Vann Corteza	0	1
Marlon Manalo	0	1

ASIAN TRACKFEST

Gabito cops long jump gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LERMA Bulauitan-Gabito pulled off the long jump of her life to win the gold medal yesterday in the fourth and final leg of the Asian Track and Field Grand Prix at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium.



GABITO soars to victory. ROMY HOMILLADA

Responding to the cheers of a huge hometown crowd, Gabito cleared 6.48 meters on her third attempt to win the event dominated by Kazakhstan's Yelena Kochsheyeva in the three previous legs held in Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

The Filipinos also captured two silver medals in the 4 x 100-meter relays and a bronze through John Lozada in the men's 800 meters.

Clad in a white body-hugging top and blue track shorts that matched the color of her long, polished nails, Gabito also improved her previous mark of 6.46m in bagging the $3,000 top prize in the yearly event that featured Asia's top five athletes in each event.

Gabito, who succeeded Elma Muros as the country's long jump queen, proudly raised her hands and pointed to the applauding crowd in the stands after her sixth and final attempt.

"We are all very tired, but what helped me is the crowd and the realization that I'm playing before my countrymen," said Gabito, who has won a total of $5,500 including her two silvers worth $1,250 each.

" I didn't expect to finally win the gold because she's very strong," Gabito said, referring to Kochsheyeva, who beat her in Colombo and in Bangkok.

The scrawny Kazakh, who beat another Filipina, Marestella Torres, in Hyderabad, placed third this time with her 6.24m effort behind Wacharee Rittiwat.

The Thai girl salvaged the silver with a jump of 6.30m on her fourth try. Torres could only place fourth at 6.19m on her second attempt.

Chona Genilza, Mary Grace Melgar, Honey Joy Ortaliz and Leslie Cercado placed second in the women's 4 x 100 behind a quartet from Thailand while Jimar Aing, Ralph Waldee Soguilon, Arnold Villarube and Henry Dagmil took the silver in the men's 4 x 100 won by the Indian squad.

Lozada, 24, managed to hang on with the lead pack most of the way but faded in the homestretch to finish third in the 800 which Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al-Salhi ruled with a time of 1:49.22.

Bulauitan said she didn't expect to win because she was nursing a pulled muscle on her right leg. Her winning jump was still way off Muros' national record of 6.55m, however.

Thailand, the Southeast Asian Games athletics superpower, also had two other golds at presstime through Narongdech Janjai in the men's 110 hurdles and Trecia Roberts in the women's 100m hurdles.

Viva targets 2-0 lead

GAME TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Achievement Awards
3 p.m.—Viva vs Hapee Toothpaste

VIVA Mineral Water hopes to sustain the momentum of its surprising Game One victory when it tackles Hapee Toothpaste again today in the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five championship series at the Pasig Sports Center.

Unfazed by Hapee's manpower advantage, Viva launched its title bid with a rousing 64-57 win at the start of the series last Saturday in Lucena City.

Making it two straight over the Sparklers, however, is easier said than done.

"The emphasis remains on mental toughness. I'm sure Hapee will make adjustments and we must be ready to respond," said Viva coach Koy Banal.

Banal, who had a short-lived stint as Hapee coach last year, is trying to become only the second PBL coach after Alfrancis Chua to steer a rookie team to the title. Chua coached then newcomer Stag Pale Pilsen to the crown during the 1995 PBL cage wars.

Game Two is set at 3 p.m. after the 2 p.m. achievement awards where the Most Valuable Player will be honored. Montaña's Gary David, Hapee's Rich Alvarez, Peter June Simon and Allan Salangsang are the top MVP contenders.

Using a defense that shifts from zone to man-press and trap, the Water Force convincingly took Game One and snapped a four-game losing streak to the Sparklers.

But Hapee coach Junel Baculi is unfazed.

"We'll come out strong in the next game," said Baculi, who is looking to end a seven-year title drought for the Lamoiyan franchise.

Baculi said the Sparklers need to play consistently.

"We entered the ballgame thinking that we can afford to trail Viva. It was more of a mental lapse on our part," Baculi said.

Dennis U. Eroa

2005 SEA GAMES

Manila eyed as host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HERE'S good news to Manileños.

Manila was picked yesterday by the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee as one of three major venues of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

But whether Manila will be the main hub of the biennial games as in the past has yet to be decided, according to Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) member Rep. Monico Puentevella.

"What is certain is that there will be more than one venue," said Puentevella at the end of Philsoc's second meeting since it was formed last February. "It's self-explanatory why Manila will be one of them."

Puentevella said the cities of Bacolod and Naga in Bicol, Lanao del Norte, Pampanga and Socsargen are bidding to serve as additional SEAG venues.

Manila hosted the SEAG in 1981 and 1991 with majority of the events held at the old Rizal Memorial Sports complex.

The practice of bringing selected SEAG events to major cities of the host country was started by Malaysia in 2001. Vietnam, this year's host,will hold the games in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh this December.

Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza welcomed Manila's choice, saying the city can start preparing for the Games which is estimated to cost P2 billion.

The Philsoc is also close to naming as SEAG mascot the famed tarsier, the gentle, wide-eyed and endangered animal found only in the Bohol highlands.

"We are now moving. In two weeks time we will decide on a logo and a slogan although it's safe to say that we are close to making a decision," said Puentevella, the only government-appointed Philsoc member who attended the meeting.

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Altas shine

By Roy Luarca

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help-Rizal survived University of Manila's repeated rallies to prevail, 80-78, yesterday and rule the 3rd Sen. Ambrosio Padilla Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The UPHR Altas, bolstered by three recruits, controlled the game throughout and led by as many as 16 points (37-21) en route to their first major seniors title.

"The boys played hard and the (UM) Hawks ran out of time," said UPHR coach Bay Cristobal. "Now, I'm seeing some light with regards to the future of this team."

Nonoy Javier led the Altas, who only posted one win in last year's NCAA basketball tournament, with 28 points . He got ample support from new acquisitions Fil-Am Vladimer Joe, Robert Bernzon and Kiel Misa. The 5-foot-9 Misa added 16, the 6-foot-5 Bernson added 10 and the 6-4 Joe added 6 for the Altas, who've been under Cristobal the past three years.

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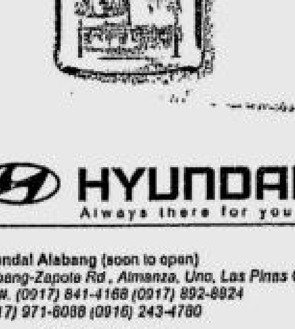

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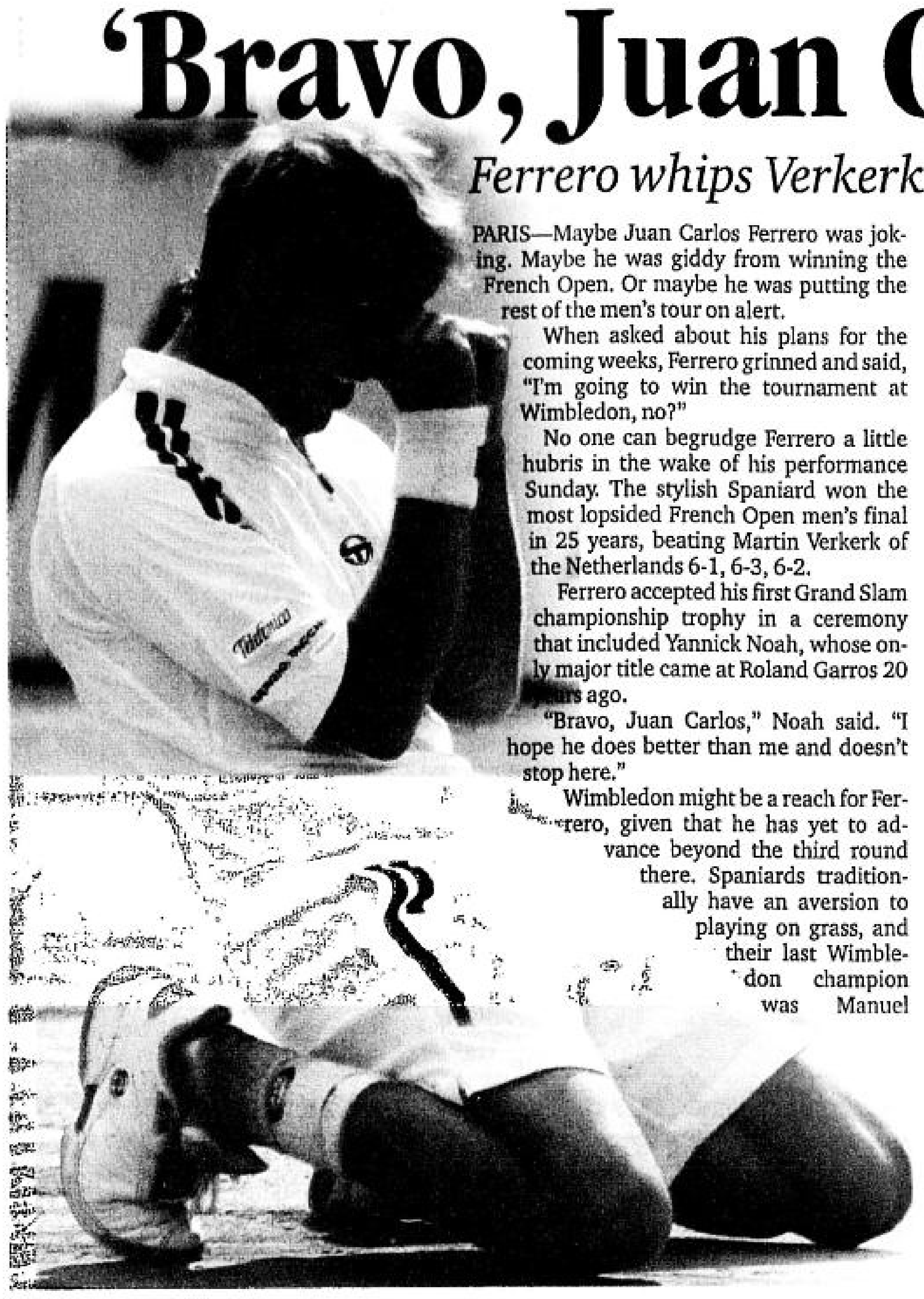
'Bravo, Juan Carlos'

Ferrero whips Verkerk in French Open final



FERRERO exults after winning the men's final against Verkerk, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2. REUTERS

PARIS—Maybe Juan Carlos Ferrero was joking. Maybe he was giddy from winning the French Open. Or maybe he was putting the rest of the men's tour on alert.

When asked about his plans for the coming weeks, Ferrero grinned and said, "I'm going to win the tournament at Wimbledon, no?"

No one can begrudge Ferrero a little hubris in the wake of his performance Sunday. The stylish Spaniard won the most lopsided French Open men's final in 25 years, beating Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

Ferrero accepted his first Grand Slam championship trophy in a ceremony that included Yannick Noah, whose only major title came at Roland Garros 20 years ago.

"Bravo, Juan Carlos," Noah said. "I hope he does better than me and doesn't stop here."

Wimbledon might be a reach for Ferrero, given that he has yet to advance beyond the third round there. Spaniards traditionally have an aversion to playing on grass, and their last Wimbledon champion was Manuel Santana in 1966.

But now that Ferrero has gotten over the hump on clay, his first major title might not be his last.

He was a French Open semifinalist in 2000 and 2001, then played poorly in the final last year and lost to Albert Costa. He became labeled a clay-court underachiever.

No more. Ferrero outplayed Verkerk from the start, stayed cool at the end and sank to his knees in relief after hitting one last winner for the title.

"This is a tournament I always wanted to win," Ferrero told the crowd in Spanish during the trophy ceremony. "Now I have it in my pocket."

Ferrero made it two first-time champions in one weekend. Justine Henin-Hardenne won her first major title Saturday, beating Belgian countrywoman Kim Clijsters 6-0, 6-4 in the most one-sided French Open women's final in 15 years.

Now that Ferrero has a Grand Slam trophy, he said, the No. 1 ranking is his No. 1 goal. He's third behind Lleyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi, two former Wimbledon champions gearing up for another run there.

"I think Hewitt is my main rival," Ferrero said. "Agassi is getting older. Maybe in two years he'll think about retiring. There are other players you have to take into account also."

One potential threat on grass will be Verkerk, a late-blooming Dutchman with a big serve.

When he arrived to play at Roland Garros for the first time, he had never won a Grand Slam match. He departed with a check for $491,000, more than doubling his career earnings in seven years as a pro.

"It has been an amazing week for me," Verkerk said. "It's more than a dream. To be in the final of a Grand Slam, there are no words for that." **AP**

Big payoff for Jenny in LPGA

By Jong Arcano

JENNY Rosales, flubbing a short three-foot birdie putt on the last hole that was worth easily a million pesos in prize money, went home with a million-peso payoff just the same after figuring in a tie for 11th place in the McDonald's LPGA Championship won by Annika Sorenstam via a sudden-death playoff yesterday.

Rosales completed the rained-out third round struggling with a three-over 74 in the morning that pulled her down from 11th after 36 holes to 23rd.

But she returned in the afternoon with a much steadier touch, inching her way up the standings with a one-under-par 70 for a 286 total at the Dupont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware.

She seemed to have her fourth top 10 finish this season in the bag with just that short putt to make on the last hole.

Rosales succumbed to pressure and missed it.

What could have been a sixth place showing worth more than $40,000 (about P2 million) instead became a $24,037 (P1.25 million) payday for the RP star who made a big rebound from two consecutive missed cuts.

That should be enough to put her back in the Top 30 of the money list from her current position of 34th.

Sorenstam, meanwhile, was in her usual confident self.

Two weeks after her historic stint in the Bank of America Colonial where she missed the cut, the Swede got herself another major and a second successive victory on the LPGA Tour.

Sörenstam needed a bold shot from the rough to par the last hole and get into the playoff, before turning back Grace Park with a routine par. It was the fifth major of Sorenstam's 45 career victories. Park missed the green and missed a par putt from about 12 feet.

Finally winning one of only two major titles she is looking for, Sorenstam put herself on track to become the fourth woman in the modern era to complete the career Grand Slam. She guns for the feat in The Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes.

Park had a seven-stroke deficit to recover when third round play continued. Park outscored Annika (70-72) and forged the playoff with her best round in a major–a four-under 67 against the 72 of Sorenstam.

Sabbatini up

POTOMAC, Maryland—Rory Sabbatini shot a 68 to take a one-shot lead after three rounds of the rain-delayed FBR Capital Open. Sabbatini was 11-under par with a 202 total, but he'll have to come back Monday as he aims for a second career PGA Tour victory. **AP**

Bigger Samsung Tour starts at Forest Hills

GOLFERS all over the country will have a lot of reason to stay competitive the whole year round as electronics giant Samsung launched yesterday the expanded version of its Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge that will cover nine championship courses in nine key cities.

And the best amateur in the land at the moment, back-to-back national champion Jerome Delariarte made it as the first registrant in the kick-off leg of the multimillion series offering appliances as rewards for excellence on June 19-20 at the treacherous Forest Hills course in Antipolo.

Delariarte is expected to face the challenge of a horde of other low-handicappers in the championship division for 0 to 4.9 handicappers, one of the six to be disputed over a short 36-hole showdown. There will be separate competitions for men's Class A (5-9.9), Class B (10-14.9) and Class C (15 and above) and ladies Class A (0-9.9) and Class B (10 and above).

SANG

OCAMPO

The top three finishers in each division will have the same set of prizes.

Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of the local Samsung distribution firm, said that as promised, the series will get better and bigger each year to ensure the participation of a bigger scope of Filipino golfers.

"Golf is a sport where Asians can really excel. It's now happening in overseas tours like the LPGA and the PGA Tour so we believe the series can really help Filipino amateurs reach that level," Eom said after meeting with representatives of host venues and co-sponsors at Mario's Restaurant.

Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group said that more than P200,000 in prizes will be awarded to tournament and raffle winners for each leg. A projector TV and DVD showcase will be at stake as a hole-in-one prize.

From Forest Hills, the tourney moves to Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao for the second stop on July 10-11, then Pueblo del Oro in Cagayan de Oro on Aug. 26-27, Negros Occidental in Bacolod on Sept. 27-28, Alta Vista in Cebu on Oct. 23-24, Camp John Hay in Baguio on Nov. 13-14, Eastridge in Binangonan, Rizal on Dec. 18-19 and Tagaytay Highlands on Jan. 22-23.

All leg winners will then assemble at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa, Batangas for the grand finals on Febr. 26-27, 2004.

Interested parties may register at the office at 6350010 or at the host venue. *Jong Arcano*

SPORTSWATCH

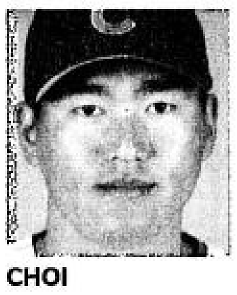
Ebuen, Flores set up final duel

NATIONAL champion Ernesto Ebuen III and unheralded Rogel Flores set up a men's open final after scoring contrasting wins yesterday in the PCSO-1st President't Cup National Age-Group Table Tennis Championships at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Ebuen whipped RP No. 3 Richard Gonzales, 11-8, 11-7, 12-10, while Flores shocked No. 2 Joseph Cruz, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7. Flores' victory denied Cruz a chance to regain the top spot from Ebuen in the national ranking. In the distaff side, reigning champion Sendrina Balatbat edged Arlene Borja, 10-12, 14-12, 12-10, 13-11, while Marell Lagunday ousted Ayra Malabayabas, 11-8, 13-15, 11-6, 14-12, to forge a title match in the women's open. Gonzales made up for his dismal showing in the open with a methodical 12-10, 13-11, 11-8 dismantling of Alex Dela Cruz in the semifinals of the special "Liha" event. He will be facing Mario Santos, an 11-9, 11-6, 11-8 winner over Alvin Remigion in the finals.

Intervillage final round today

GREENMEADOWS, Bel-Air and Magallanes aim to enter the grand finals of the Nokia Intervillage golf tournament when they gun for the top three berths in the last round of the Nokia Intervillage Central tournament today at the Manila Golf Club. Powered by JP Reyes' 40-point effort, Greenmeadows shocked the favored bets by ruling the first round of the tournament among villages in Makati and Mandaluyong, scoring 292 Stableford points and beating Bel-Air (286) by six points at the Aoki course of the Eagle Ridge golf complex recently. The highly touted Magallanes posted a 270, still good enough to secure third spot in the event sponsored by Nokia. Philam Homes, Don Enrique Heights and White Plains were the first finalists in the meet backed by Alaxan, Pisanti golf wear, 357 Boracay, BJ Marthel International, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Kaiseki Japanese Cuisine.

Moyer sparkles; Choi back home



CHOI

JAMIE Moyer became the majors' first 10-game winner and the Seattle Mariners, with Ichiro Suzuki again leading the way, beat the New York Mets 7-0 Sunday to complete a doubleheader sweep. Suzuki got four hits in the opener as the Mariners bolted to a 12-run lead and routed the Mets 13-1 behind a six-hitter from Freddy Garcia (6-6), his first complete game since May 19, 2002. Meanwhile, Hee Seop Choi was resting at home Sunday, a day after a violent collision with Kerry Wood that left the Chicago Cubs first baseman with a concussion. Choi still had a headache and his neck was sore, but he was in good spirits, Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. Choi was placed on the 15-day disabled list before Sunday night's game against the New York Yankees and has been ordered to rest for the next week. **AP**

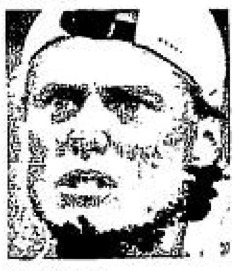
Owen nails down first victory

MERIDEN, England—Greg Owen eased to a three-stroke victory in the British Masters on Sunday for his first win in six seasons on the European Tour after a one under par final round of 71. The 31-year-old Englishman could afford bogeys on three of the last four holes at Forest of Arden as he won comfortably from last week's Wales Open champion Ian Poulter and Christian Cevaer of France. Poulter, second overnight four shots adrift, birdied the 17th hole for a 70 to snatch a share of second with Cevaer, who birdied the last two holes for a 68. Darren Clarke, after a day's-best 66, Robert Rock with a 68 and Anthony Wall following a 71, shared fourth place on 280. **AP**

Triathlon seminar slated June 15

A TRIATHLON training seminar dubbed "Heart Rate Training for Triathletes: A scientific approach for beginners" will be held on June 15 at the Fitness First Gym ABS-CBN branch, 5/F ELJ Tower, Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City. The seminar, designed for triathletes, health buffs and extreme sports fans, is organized by Polar Heart Rate Monitor in cooperation with Saucony, Saeko Swimming Goggles and Accessories, Toby's Sports, Sports Resources Inc., and Fitness First. Raul Cuevas, Triathlon Association of the Philippines' head coach, will be the guest speaker. For inquiries, call Peng Young at 671-9765.

Hewitt's coach quits, say reports



HEWITT

SYDNEY, Australia—Two weeks before he begins his Wimbledon title defense, top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt has a new coach. Jason Stoltenberg has decided to return to Melbourne to spend more time with his wife and two children, Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported Monday. Roger Lasheed, a former touring pro who has known Hewitt since he was a teenager, will replace Stoltenberg. "Jason's been great for my game and I understand the reasons why he has taken this decision," Hewitt said. "It's a lifestyle decision and I respect that." **AP**

Lagon captures top cocker award

COCKER-BREEDER Sonny Lagon scored 68 points to officially claim the 2003 Cocker of the Year award of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines with a total top score of 68 points. Lagon also won the Stagfighter of the Year Award in 2000 and 2001 and was a runner-up finisher in the Balbina Cup 7-Stag National Derby in October last year. He tallied a 5-win, 2-draw record in the Bakbakan National 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Before the start of last Saturday's finals of the deciding event which was the Fil-Am 9-Cock Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, Lagon was leading with 4.5 points over Danding Cojuangco.

4-cock derby lures top breeders

AS the moulting season nears, the remaining derby aces of big-time breeders will be fielded in today's "RJJM 4-Cock Derby" at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. More than 50 fights are lined up in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc. Derby's hosts are OPMI personnel Rody Torres, Joel Ngo, Maricar Gonzaga and Monching Adriano. Entry fee is P10,000 while minimum bet is P5,500. Among the participants are hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, Ferdie Lim, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Butchoy Olano, Boy de Roca and OPMI president Vic Yu. Set for Thursday (June 12) is the "CJR Nevada 4-Cock Derby" of Charlie Reyes and Bonjing Catajan.

Basilan tennisters take limelight

PINT-SIZED Alkhady Jainul and Jimbo Salip of Isabela, Basilan, took the limelight in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop over the weekend at the Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association hardcourts. Jainul and Salip, proteges of Basilan Gov. Wahab M. Akbar, ousted Noel Damian, 6-1, 6-1, and Jim Manatad, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, respectively, to advance in the unisex 10-under division in the Group-3-sanctioned Philta event. Lani Enriquez, 11, teammate of Jainul and Salip at the Basilan Tennis Club, blanked Nicole Casimiro, 6-0, 6-0, in the girls' 14-under in the Milo netfest organized by CTW with support from Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids and coordinated by regional tennis officials James Ramirez and Al Allian.

Hong Kong bowlers show way

HONG Kong entries asserted their might in the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Open Bowling Championships after bagging the top two slots in the men's all events at the Green Valley Center in Pasig over the weekend. Rising star Wu Siu Hong kept the No. 1 position, while countryman Chung Him and Indonesian Rudy Goenawan dislodged local players Purvis Granger and Robert Tan by taking the next two spots. Him barely beat the 1801 effort of Hong after finishing with 1800 while Goenawan had a 1780. In the distaff side of the meet sponsored by Boysen, Philippine Sports Commission, Kegel Asia and Aviva, Sarah Yap of Malaysia rolled 934 pins to place second behind the 946 of leader Liza del Rosario in the singles. Cecilia Yap also bettered her previous mark by submitting 923 for third.

Carmona track holding 57 races

A TOTAL of 57 races highlighted by the second running of the 2003 Philracom Imported Stakes series will be held at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, as part of the Philippine Independence Week Racing Festival. Nine races are on tap today starting 5:15 in the afternoon. Hostilities take a break Thursday in observance of the Independence Day before races resume for three straight days starting Friday. Australia-bred chargers Buena Sera and You Know That lead the five-horse cast vying for top honors in the 1,400-meter Imported Stakes.

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2 ANG TANGING INA	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	Onstage CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 ANG TANGING INA
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	6 ANG TANGING INA			
	7 THE MATRIX RELOADED			

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4 GOLD (DTS ES) ANG TANGING INA
5 GOLD HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6 GOLD (SDDS) DARKNESS FALLS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 PAKNER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

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2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 PAKNER

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2 PAKNER
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DARKNESS FALLS
5 BIGAY HILIG

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1 BIGAY HILIG
2 KAPIT BAHAY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PAKNER
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 REAL CANCUN
2 ANG TANGING INA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 DAYO
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BIGAY HILIG
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) DARNESS FALLS
4 SPECIAL SCREENING FOR FESTIVAL
5 PAKNER
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) BIGAY HILIG
8 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY) THE REAL CANCUN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 (DOLBY) DARKNESS FALLS
7 (DTS) REAL CANCUN
8 FRIDA
9 KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 (SDDS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 DARKNESS FALLS

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tel 656.6795

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) DARKNESS FALLS
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BIGAY HILIG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 BIGAY HILIG

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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 BIGAY HILIG
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE REAL CANCUN
4 PAKNER
5 BIGAY HILIG

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta Center MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1 PAKNERS
2 TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS) DARKNESS FALLS
5 (DTS) REAL CANCUN
6 BIGAY HILIG
7 MATRIX RELOADED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 KIKAY
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PAKNER
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 DARKNESS FALLS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) DARKNESS FALLS
4 PAKNER

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4

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(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) RING O
4 ANGER MANAGEMENT

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 (DTS) PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS) THE VERDICT
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) KAPIT BAHAY
4 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas MovieCity
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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) DARKNESS FALL
4 KIKAY
5 PAKNER

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1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SEX AND ZEN

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1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SEX AND ZEN

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1 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PHONE BOOTH
4 (DOLBY) PAKNER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 RESERVE

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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798

1 PAKNER
2 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 RING - 0

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(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 DAYO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 AGENT CODY BANKS

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Filinvest - Alabang

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1 THE REAL CANCUN
2 PAKNERS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 THE REAL CANCUN
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 PAKNERS
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ANG KAPITBAHAY
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 FRIDA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BIGAY HILIG
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 AGENT CODY BANKS
11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12 THE REAL CANCUN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 THE REAL CANCUN
3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
4 RING 0
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 PAKNERS
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 DARKNESS FALLS
11 BIGAY HILIG
12 ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 THE REAL CANCUN
6 THE 8TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 DARKNESS FALLS
11 PAKNERS
12 ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE REAL CANCUN
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL
8098888

1 THE REAL CANCUN
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
6 ANG KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 PAKNERS
10 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5 RING 0
6 DAYO
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 SO CLOSE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 WILLARD
2 CLOSED
3 SO CLOSE
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SOULKEEPER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 AGENT CODY BANKS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 A MAN APART
2 PHONEBOOTH
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6 SO CLOSE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 PHONEBOOTH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 DARKNESS FALLS
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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THX BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20, 9:30LMF,11:10 END
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 REAL CANCUN
4 HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 FRIDA
8 MATRIX
9 AGENT CODY BANKS
10 BIGAY HILIG

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1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 MATRIX RELOADED
3 PAKNERS
4 REAL CANCUN
5 HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS

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682- 8193 / 8280

1 MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 REAL CANCUN
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 MATRIX RELOADED
5 REAL CANCUN
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 PAKNERS
8 BIGAY HILIG

Malabon Citisquare
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1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNERS
4 BIGAY HILIG

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1 KIKAY
2 PAKNERS
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 REAL CANCUN
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 ANG TANGING INA

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KIKAY
5 PAKNERS

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SO CLOSE
4 PHONEBOOTH
5 RING 0
6 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 WILLARD
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 SOUL KEEPER
5 TANGING INA
6 SO CLOSE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ANISTON

When God …

From page A30

among the stars of "Friends," she's probably the one who's got a real movie career waiting for her after the hit TV series is over.

Even second stringers like Catherine Bell (from TV's "Jag") and comic Steve Carrell, playing Bruce's colleagues in the network, have their moments, with the latter having perhaps the funniest scene in the film (he babbles senselessly for a good two minutes when Bruce messes with his live newscast).

And Carrey? If laughter, as the movie implies, brings us closer to holiness, Carrey would be up for canonization by now, or, more aptly, "loose cannonization."

When God tells Bruce in the film that he has "a divine spark to bring joy and laughter into the world," he was probably looking beyond the character and addressing the actor playing him.

Broadway goes gay…

From page A30

world. As it should be."

Billy Joel, who won a pre-telecast award for orchestrations, opened the 2003 Tony ceremonies in Times Square, singing "New York State of Mind."

The song is featured in "Movin' Out," a dance celebration of songs by Joel, who, along with Stuart Malina, won the award for best orchestrations. The show's creator, Twyla Tharp, also garnered the award for choreography.

"La Boheme," Baz Luhrmann's lavish retelling of the Puccini opera, picked up design awards for sets, created by Luhrmann's wife, Catherine Martin, and for lighting, by Nigel Levings.

The Tonys, chosen in 22 categories, are voted on by more than 700 members of the theater community and journalists.

AFP, AP, Reuters

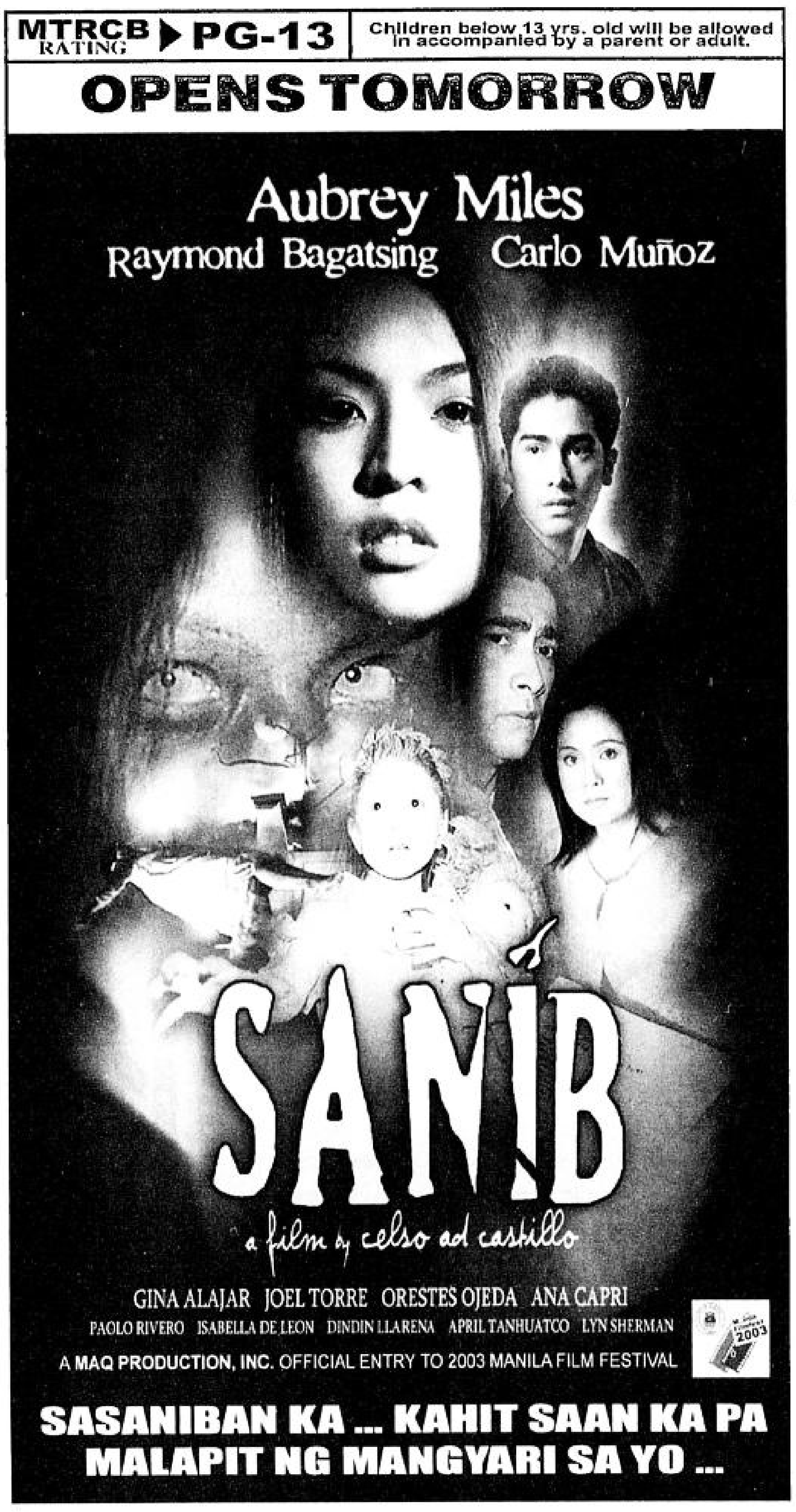
How to …

From page A30

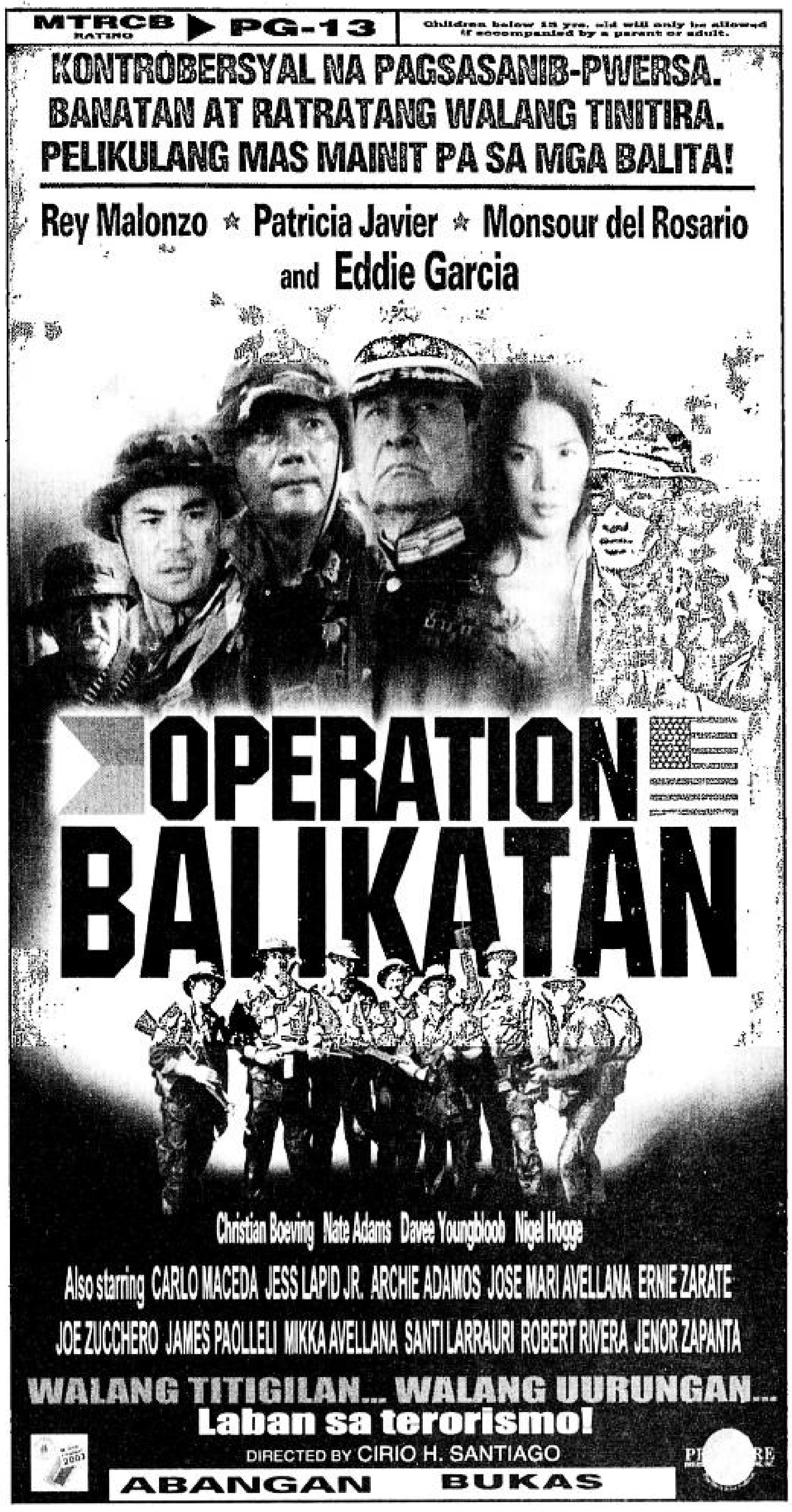
the loser, even after debasing yourself and bartering your dignity for that vaunted star in the show biz firmament.

Don't do bold movies. Don't believe filmmakers who promise to direct you "artistically." They're just using you, your body and your naivete to bolster their own careers.

Try your luck in show biz if you must but with your eyes very wide open.



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
OPENS TOMORROW
Aubrey Miles
Raymond Bagatsing Carlo Muñoz
SANIB
a film by celso ad castillo
GINA ALAJAR JOEL TORRE ORESTES OJEDA ANA CAPRI
PAOLO RIVERO ISABELLA DE LEON DINDIN LLARENA APRIL TANHUATCO LYN SHERMAN
A MAQ PRODUCTION, INC. OFFICIAL ENTRY TO 2003 MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
SASANIBAN KA ... KAHIT SAAN KA PA MALAPIT NG MANGYARI SA YO ...



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
KONTROBERSYAL NA PAGSASANIB-PWERSA.
BANATAN AT RATRATANG WALANG TINITIRA.
PELIKULANG MAS MAINIT PA SA MGA BALITA!
Rey Malonzo ★ Patricia Javier ★ Monsour del Rosario
and Eddie Garcia
OPERATION BALIKATAN
Christian Boeving Nate Adams Davee Youngbloob Nigel Hogge
Also starring CARLO MACEDA JESS LAPID JR. ARCHIE ADAMOS JOSE MARI AVELLANA ERNIE ZARATE
JOE ZUCCHERO JAMES PAOLLELI MIKKA AVELLANA SANTI LARRAURI ROBERT RIVERA JENOR ZAPANTA
WALANG TITIGILAN... WALANG UURUNGAN...
Laban sa terorismo!
DIRECTED BY CIRIO H. SANTIAGO
ABANGAN BUKAS

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
Ara o Maui kanino ka sasamba?
ang huling birhen sa lupa
ara mina jay manalo maui taylor
DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI
Official entry to the Manila Film Festival OPENS TOMORROW

MTRCB RATING ▶ GP General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
Fall in-love with this year's most kilig movie!
Christopher de Leon & Regine Velasquez
Dingdong Dantes
Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka
PELIKULA NI LOUIE LAGDAMEO IGNACIO
VIVA
NESCAFÉ CLASSIC TimTam LEONARDO Bags DUNKIN' DONUTS Rexona
OPENS TOMORROW

DID YOU KNOW...

A very pregnant **Giselle Sanchez** was seen shopping alone for home fixtures at the MC Home Depot in Ortigas, Pasig City. Giselle has slowed down in doing live comedy shows since her interesting stage started. The University of the Philippines magna cum laude graduate is married to Petron executive **Emil Buencamino**, who was her boyfriend for eight years.

Protest vs film fest movie is 'non-issue,' says mayor

By Margaux Ortiz

MILITANTS protesting the inclusion in the Manila Film Festival of a movie starring Eddie Garcia should just watch and enjoy the movie, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"It's just a movie that is meant to entertain," said the mayor, referring to "Operation: Balikatan," directed by Cirio Santiago. "It is a non-issue as far as we are concerned."

GARCIA

Atienza said people should not read too much into the movie because it is not based on actual events. "Instead of nitpicking and criticizing every movie that has a 'controversial' element, we should support locally made movies to help revive the ailing Filipino movie industry," he said.

Anti-war activists earlier asked Atienza and the Manila Film Festival committee not to show "Operation: Balikatan" because they said it has a "pro-US and pro-military" theme.

The militant group Pamalakaya said the war movie is a "propaganda movie" for the RP-US joint military exercises Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu later this year.

US officials involved in the military exercises had also requested for a special screening of the movie to see for themselves if "Operation: Balikatan" presented a negative view of the exercises.

SM CINEMA
THE 8TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTS

2:00 PM	5:00 PM	8:00 PM
MTRCB Rating: R13	MTRCB Rating: R13	MTRCB Rating: PG13

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FRENCH
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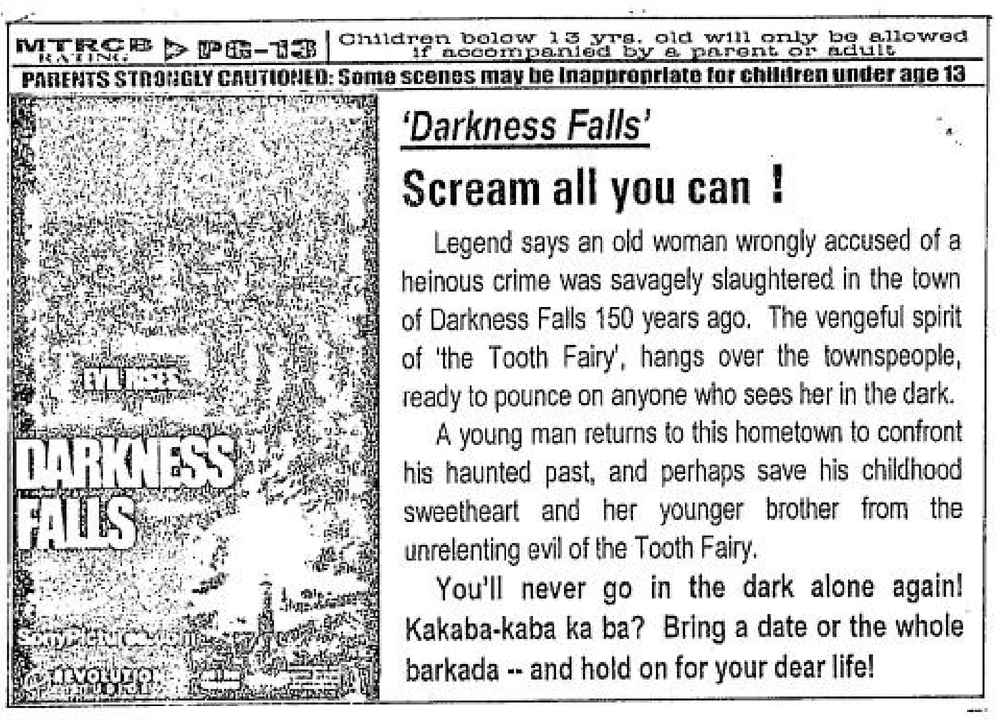
bord de mer
GREGOIRE MOULIN contre L'HUMANITE!


MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13

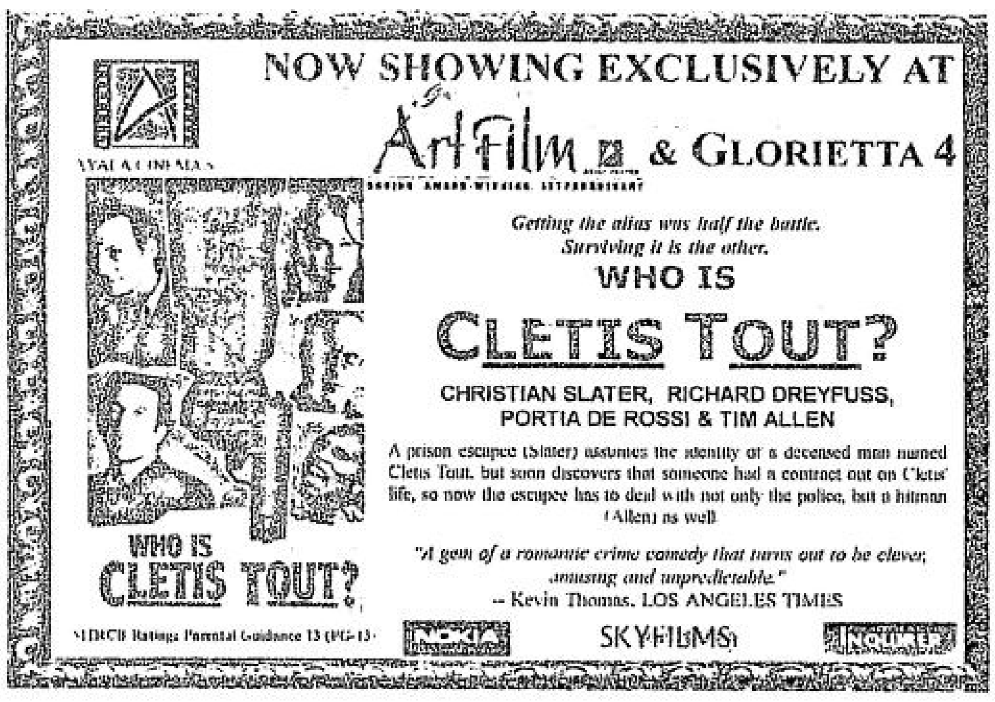
'Darkness Falls'

Scream all you can !

Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.

A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.

You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!
DARKNESS FALLS
REVOLUTION

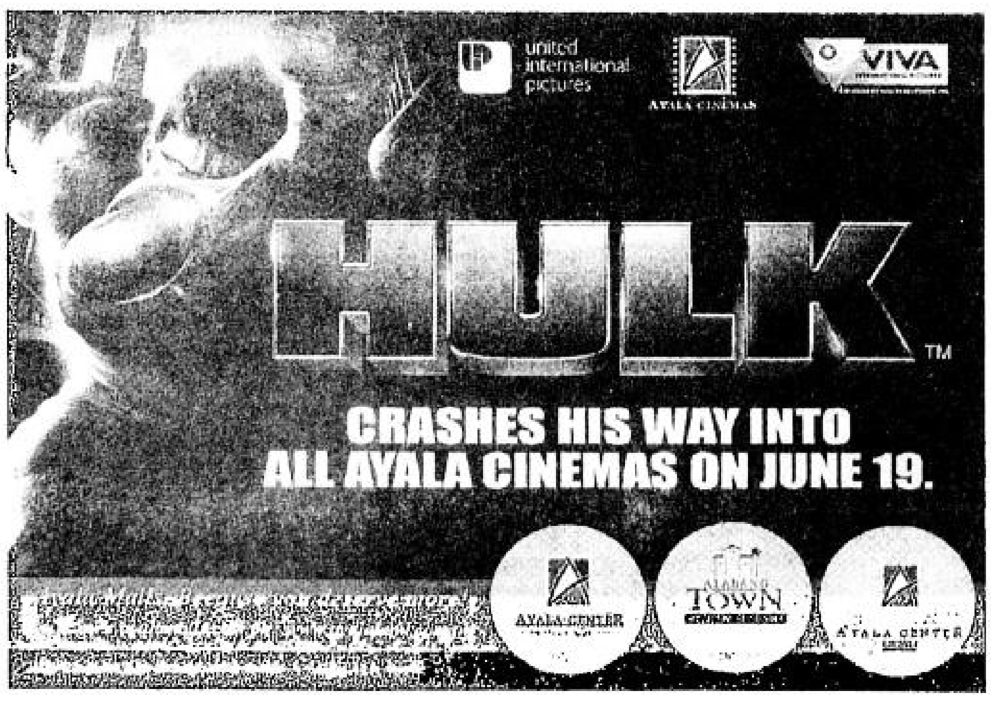

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT
ArtFilm & GLORIETTA 4
AYALA CINEMAS

Getting the alias was half the battle.
Surviving it is the other.
WHO IS
CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS,
PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN

A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER
WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?

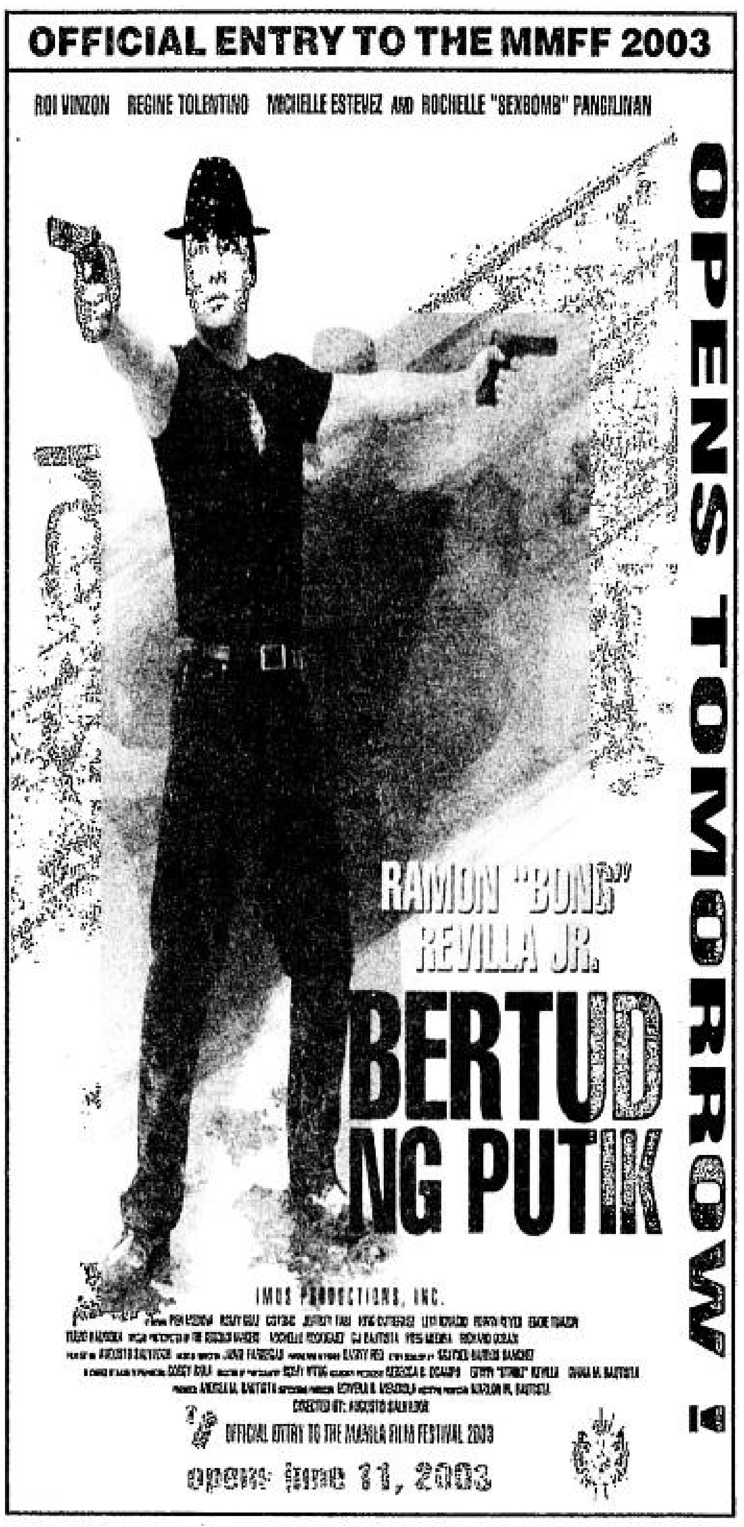

united international pictures
AYALA CINEMAS
VIVA
HULK
TM
CRASHES HIS WAY INTO
ALL AYALA CINEMAS ON JUNE 19.
AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN
AYALA CENTER

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES
AN AYALA CINEMAS EXCLUSIVE
MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY
Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

OPENS JUNE 11 EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3
AYALA CINEMAS Buena Vista International
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)


OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003
ROI VINZON REGINE TOLENTINO MICHELLE ESTEVEZ AND ROCHELLE "SEXBOMB" PANGILINAN
RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR.
BERTUD NG PUTIK
IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC.
DIRECTED BY: AUGUSTO SALVADOR
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
opens june 11, 2003
OPENS TOMORROW!

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REAL CANCUN **R18** 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:10, 9:30	**AGENT CODY BANKS** **PG13** 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	**TANGING INA** **GP** 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40
DARKNESS FALLS **PG13** 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	**FRIDA** **R18** 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	**BRUCE ALMIGHTY** **PG13** 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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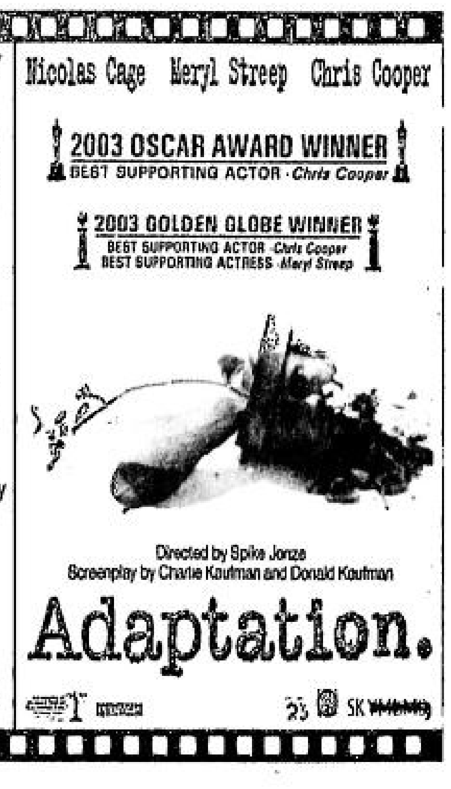
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BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS · Meryl Streep
Directed by Spike Jonze
Screenplay by Charlie Kaufman and Donald Kaufman
Adaptation.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	DARKNESS FALLS
Ali 5	REAL CANCUN
Ali 6	BIGAY HILIG
Ali 7	MATRIX RELOADED

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June 9 & 11	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REAL CANCUN
CINEMA-12	VERDICT
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Broadway goes gay in Tony Awards

NEW YORK—The 57th Tony Awards show was a big night for gays on Broadway, with top honors going to gay-themed productions and artists relishing the openness that has marked this theatrical season.

The Best Play award went to "Take Me Out," a drama about a star baseball player revealing that he is gay, and Best Musical honors to "Hairspray," whose leading actor, Harvey Fierstein, plays the gravel-voiced mother of the heroine in drag.

Many of the Tony winners rode a wave of awards night euphoria on Sunday to unabashedly address their gayness or to comment on the phenomenon to the Radio City Music Hall crowd.

The issue was raised early in the broadcast hosted by "X-Men" star Hugh Jackman when Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, partners in both songwriting and real-life romance, stepped up to receive the Tony for best original score for "Hairspray."

"We're not allowed to get married but I want to declare I love you and I'd like to live with you the rest of my life," said Shaiman, who then kissed Wittman.

Winner Harvey Fierstein performs a scene from "Hairspray." REUTERS

Amazing

Joe Mantello, who won the Tony for his direction of "Take Me Out," said, "I think I just saw two guys kiss on national TV. That's cool."

Denis O'Hare, honored as best featured actor for his comic portrayal of a gay accountant suddenly enamored of baseball in "Take Me Out," said later: "It's Gay Night out there. It's amazing."

The theater community has long been an accepting and nurturing environment for gays and many in the parade of Tony winners took note.

Fierstein, who became a hero of the gay community after writing and starring in the gay-themed play "Torch Song Trilogy" to earn two Tonys 20 years ago, said he felt honored to work with all the caring people in the theater world.

"I want to have your babies," the "Hairspray" star joked in accepting his award for best lead performance in a musical.

"Hairspray" dominated the Tony Awards, collecting eight prizes, including best musical.

Family affair

A critically praised production of Eugene O'Neill's brooding masterpiece "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and an imaginative reworking of "Nine," starring Spanish heartthrob Antonio Banderas, took home the revival awards for play and musical.

The "Hairspray" triumph was a family affair for three of its performers, who play mother, daughter and father in the musical, which is based on John Waters' campy film set in early 1960s Baltimore.

Fierstein won as best actor in a musical for his portrayal of hefty matriarch Edna Turnblad. Dick Latessa took the featured actor-musical award for playing Edna's diminutive husband, Wilbur, and Marissa Jaret Winokur was chosen best actress-musical for her performance as their daughter, Tracy, a perky, pudgy teenager determined to get on a television dance show.

Winokur gushed as she picked up the actress-musical prize. "If a 4-foot-11 (1.5-meter), chubby, New York girl can be a leading lady in a Broadway show and win a Tony," she said to raucous cheers, "then anything can happen!"

HAPPY and gay, Mark Shaiman (left), hugs presenter Sally Jessica Parker while Scott Wittman (back to camera), hugs Parker's husband Matthew Broderick as Shaiman and Wittman accept the Tony Award for Best Score for "Hairspray." AP

"Hairspray" also garnered Tonys for book, score, direction-musical and costumes.

Musicians' strike

When he took the stage, Fierstein said, "Boy, am I glad this was not a beauty contest," looking at Banderas, his main competition.

Brian Dennehy and Vanessa Redgrave, portraying parents of a very different sort, won the best actor and actress prizes for their work as the fiercely combative James Tyrone and his morphine-addled wife, Mary, in "Long Day's Journey."

An emotional Redgrave, winning her first Tony, recalled all the American actors, singers and dancers who inspired her over the years as she accepted her award.

Jane Krakowski, who makes a spectacular airborne entrance and exit in "Nine," was chosen best featured-actress in a musical.

Shaiman, composer of "Hairspray," jokingly referred to the short musicians' strike that shut down Broadway musicals in March during his speech.

"If anyone cuts me off, there's a virtual orchestra at 'Hairspray' on Tuesday," he said, alluding to how the threat of computer-driven orchestras was an issue in the dispute.

Perfect world

Michele Pawk, who played Carol Burnett's alcoholic mother in the short-lived "Hollywood Arms," won the featured-actress prize. "I have never ever been more proud to be a member of this community," she said. "Men kissing each other on stage, drag queens, children—it's a perfect

BROADWAY/ A28

'BRUCE ALMIGHTY'

When God gets wacky

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

IF THERE is one thing the movie "Bruce Almighty" makes clear, it is this: It's not easy being God, especially if you're human.

I myself would have a problem with the all-loving, all-merciful part that comes with the job. I mean, if I were God and a guy like Bruce Nolan (Jim Carrey) calls me a slacker and rants about my injustice, I might be inclined to turn him into a pillar of salt or send him to the pits of hell.

Bruce lashes out at God like a modern-day Job who has had enough of God picking on him. "God is a mean kid sitting on an anthill with a magnifying glass and I'm the ant he's pulling the legs off," he gripes.

He thinks God is ignoring him, that God could fix his life in a jiffy if He chose to. Worse, Bruce accuses God of not doing his job (somewhat like Al Pacino's Satan calling God an absentee landlord in "Devil's Advocate").

Whiner

The problem is Bruce doesn't even come close to being Job. God did not take away everything he had or kill his children or give him sores from head to toe. Bruce is just a frustrated TV reporter whose greatest ordeal in life is that he's been passed over for the anchor position in his network, a job he believes is meant for him.

The fact that he's got Jennifer Aniston for a girlfriend doesn't even seem to count as a blessing to Bruce, for he complains bitterly and incessantly about his "mediocre job, mediocre apartment and mediocre life." What a whiner!

In films like this, you know that a character like Bruce would surely get his much-deserved comeuppance through some cosmic conspiracy or divine intervention (think of Bill Murray's "Groundhog Day"), and that's exactly what happens. When Bruce curses the heavens and challenges God to a confrontation, God relents. Instead of smiting him, however, God (Morgan Freeman) decides to teach Bruce a lesson by giving him a glimpse of what it's like to be Him.

God figures if Bruce thinks he can do a better job of being "the Alpha and the Omega," then let him try it for a while. He bestows upon Bruce all His powers and sends him off with only two caveats: Bruce can't tell anybody about his omnipotence, and he can't mess with free will.

Hard way

If you've seen the film's trailer, you already know what happens next. Even if you haven't, just imagine Jim Carrey as God and you'll get the picture. From the moment Carrey struts into the streets lip-synching "I've Got the Power" you know "Bruce Almighty" would probably be the most riotous religious movie film ever made.

Bruce doesn't try to bring world peace, banish poverty and hunger, or cure cancer, Aids and SARS. Nope, his concerns are more parochial, like getting his most coveted news anchor position at the network, or giving his girlfriend Grace some divine orgasms, not to mention bigger boobs.

In one of the more hilarious scenes of the film, he even tries a Cecile B. De Mille parting of the Red Sea on a bowl of tomato soup.

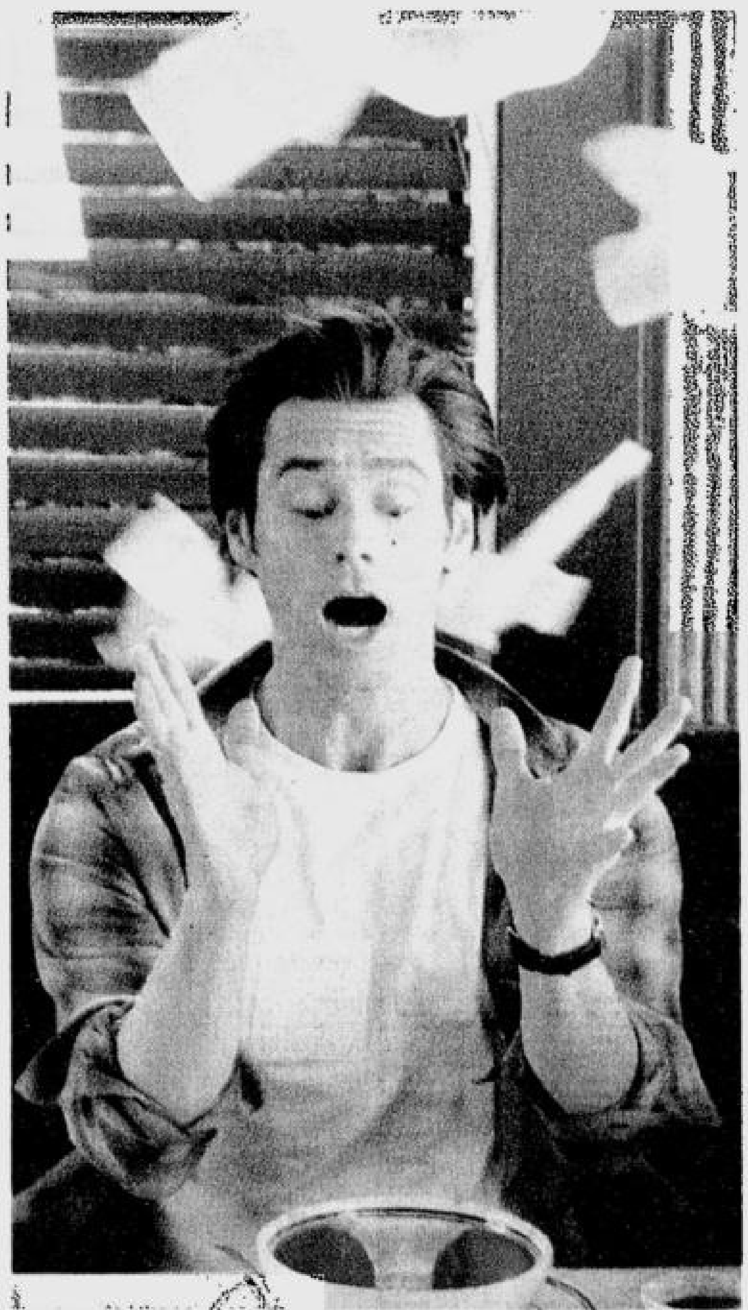
But as the saying goes, you can't pick up one end of the stick without picking up the other.

Bruce soon finds out the hard way that there are mighty consequences when he acts not very Godlike but, well, very human.

Not afraid

"Bruce Almighty" is an ideal vehicle for Carrey to get wacky. It allows him to let loose his manic madness and gift for physical contortions to deliver the kind of comedy only he knows how.

But I did mention the film to be religious as well, and it is that, notwithstanding the laugh fest. Indeed, if anything, it's not afraid to tackle serious theological issues even as it tickles our funny bones.



PARTING the red soup, Bruce (Carrey) tries a miracle.

The age-old discussions about free will vis-à-vis God's omnipotence come to the fore in Bruce's predicament. "How do you make someone love you without messing with free will?" he asks God, trying to find a way to get his estranged girlfriend back. To which God replies: "Welcome to my world, son."

I'm reminded of the words of a famous theologian who said that free will is a sanctuary that even God does not dare thread upon.

Everyday miracles

The God in the film is the God most people would like to believe in. He's not a small God who's vindictive and gives us what we deserve. Rather, he's omnipotence is matched only by his compassion, benevolence and, yes, sense of humor. He allows human beings to find their own way and learn their lessons as they go along. He believes in the power of prayers but does not play favorites.

Too many times, God tells Bruce, we look towards the heavens for miracles when real miracles happen every day, as when a child stays in school and refuses to do drugs, or when a single mom makes time after her hectic work day to read to her kid. Ultimately, God says, "If you want to see a miracle, be the miracle."

The film's life affirming messages are well taken, as they're not rammed down our throats and comedy is used to make them instantly digestible.

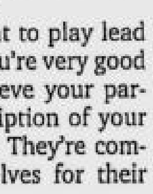
Everyone in the film seems to be in his or her element. Morgan Freeman is arguably the best actor to play God since George Burns. His God is the one you'd really like to meet at the end of that bright tunnel.

Aniston proves yet again that

WHEN/ A28

How to succeed in show business without really crying

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

RATHER regularly, we hear of show biz wannabes who finally drop out the entertainment scene after a series of frustrating and infuriating experiences. What is it about local show business that makes it such a purgatory and even hell for so many new talents? Is there any way that a reasonably good-looking and talented newcomer can succeed in the biz without really, desperately crying?

The relatively happy experience of some stars indicates there is. Let's learn from them:

First, don't have unrealistic expectations. Before entering the show biz arena, make sure you know the field as it really is, and understand how it works.

Show biz is perceived to be glamorous, and performing is thought to be an easy way to make money. Wrong on both counts.

Day jobs

The glamour is superficial, for show and image purposes only. As for making big money, only some five percent of all performers do. If you've got what it takes to land in the top five percent, great. If not, you've got problems.

This is why many local performers don't quit their day jobs, or have a lot of non-show biz sidelines to fall back on when the pickings are slim in show business—which, if you aren't a big start, is often.

In addition, the field really isn't all that professional, so a lot of subjectivity enters into show biz people's working and personal relationships.

Sadly, talent alone isn't enough to make it big in the biz. You also need connections, contacts, a really good manager, money to invest in your training, career development, publicity, etc.

Exploiters

Show biz is also rife with people who promise you the moon for a piece of your body or bankbook, but after they get what they want, breezily leave you high and dry, feeling used, abused and exploited.

How can you tell the exploiter from the people who really want to help you with no strings attached? It's difficult, because the exploiters are very good at what they do: You know, practice makes perfect, wolves in sheep's clothing and all that.

So, here's the lowdown: To make it in show biz without being used and abused, first make sure that you're really talented. If you're only a so-so talent, you're vulnerable to the exploiters' coolly cynical siren call.

Next, if you want to play lead roles, make sure you're very good looking. Don't believe your parents' ecstatic description of your physical attributes. They're complimenting themselves for their genes.

Bold stars

If you aren't strikingly beautiful or handsome, settle for character or comedy parts. You'll spare yourself a lot of grief that way.

However, even if you're super good-looking you aren't home free quite yet. You need to have charisma, star quotient, fan appeal, "It," the X-factor.

There are many beautiful but charismatic starlets in the biz who don't get anywhere much, which is why they're so easy to be convinced by bold film producers to shamelessly bare and dare on the big screen, to fast-track their ascent to the top.

Even if you do soft porn, however, you still aren't assured of a stellar career. Most probably, you will simply join the scores of bold "stars" who do only one or two movies, and quickly disappear from sight.

Eyes wide open

So, here's the bottom line: If you're talented, great-looking and charismatic, get good and solid training in the different performing crafts, hire a good manager and publicist and then and only then can you begin to hope that your fledgling career can get somewhere.

Above all simply refuse to be used, abused and exploited, because you'll invariably come out

HOW/ A28

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Lifting of AUV tax exemption deferred anew

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance shelved anew the revenue regulation on automotive taxes that would have scrapped the tax exemption enjoyed by Asian utility vehicles (AUVs).

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters that the Bureau of Internal Revenue Revenue Regulation 4-2003 (RR 4-2003), which was supposed to take effect yesterday, could wait now that Congress was close to passing a new law reforming the excise taxation on automobiles.

"Deferment is the most reasonable thing to do under the circumstances," Camacho said at the sidelines of the signing agreement with underwriters on the issuance of retail treasury bonds.

Aside from lifting the tax exemption of AUVs, the new law being worked out in Congress will shift the tax base to manufacturer's value from engine displacement, thereby plugging the loophole in the taxation of luxury cars.

Camacho said the government would have gone ahead with the implementation of RR 4-2003 if there was no progress in the deliberations on the proposed law.

CAMACHO

It was the fourth time that the Department of Finance has deferred the implementation of RR 4-2003, which was issued as a transitory measure to tighten the implementation of the 10-seater tax exemption rule pending Congress' approval of the tax reforms. The regulation would have imposed size and space standards that are too stringent that almost all commercial vehicles will lose tax exemption.

Camacho said the new deferment would likely take effect until September. The last deferment lapsed last June 6.

He said the DOF would accept the version that was shaping up in Congress, noting that there were only "minor changes" from its own proposal. Specifically, the compromise bill looming in Congress will adapt excise tax rates that are lower than the DOF's proposal.

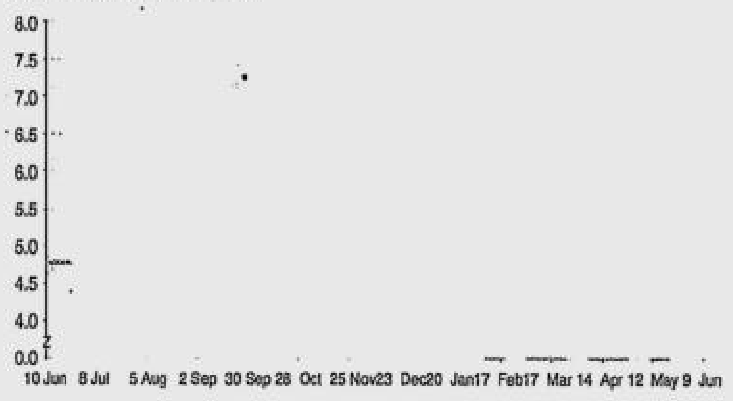
Treasury bill yields continue to decline

TREASURY bill rates dipped across all maturities for the fourth consecutive auction yesterday following the ongoing initiatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to free up more liquidity into the financial system.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, used as a benchmark by banks in pricing their loans, fell to an average of 5.666 percent (the lowest since February), from 6.302 percent during the previous bimonthly auction.

The 182-day and 364-day bills likewise fell to 6.479 percent and 6.898 percent from 7.157 percent and 7.804 percent.

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
June 10, 2002 to June 9, 2003



Source: Technistock, Bureau of Treasury

"It's because of the BSP's tiering system. Effectively, the (BSP's overnight borrowing) rate is lower," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told reporters after the auction where the government awarded in full its P9.5-billion offering.

The abundant liquidity in the system, Edeza said, resulted in the further easing of interest rates.

During its monthly monetary policy-setting meeting last week, the Monetary Board of the BSP maintained its overnight borrowing rate at 7 percent and its overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent—the same levels for the last 15 months—while the easing was done through the revival of the tiering system.

The restoration of the tiering system makes it less attractive for banks to place funds with the BSP as the published overnight borrowing rate of 7 percent under the overnight reverse repurchase agreement (RRP) window will be applicable only to the first P5 billion parked with the BSP.

In excess of P5 billion, banks will be paid only 4 percent while in excess of P10 billion, the applicable rate will be further reduced to one percent.

The market also anticipated further monetary easing by the BSP, which indicated it might bring down the reserve requirement by one percentage point if the downtrend in inflation would continue.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier said the fresh initiative on the reserve requirement would

TREASURY/ B4

INDICATORS

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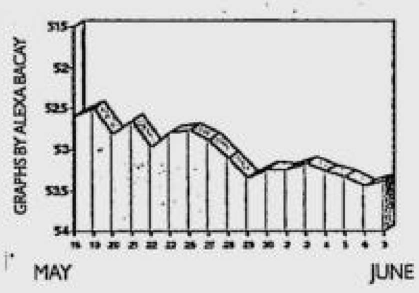


GRAPHS BY ALEXA BACAY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.38 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2003

¥ 118.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2003

GOLD: $361.50-362.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 9, 2003

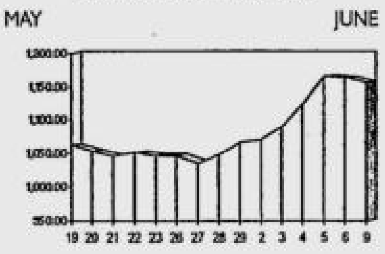
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down

SHARES retreated again yesterday as investors decided to pocket further gains from last week's mini-rally, traders said.

The main composite index ended down 8.13 points, or 0.7 percent at 1,155.71, but well off the intraday low of 1,148.13.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Last week the main index surged nearly 9 percent with gains trimmed slightly on Friday as investors decided to cash out of the market, and that pattern continued yesterday.

"There's ongoing profit taking right now and it seems the market will consolidate for awhile," said Emmanuel Soller, a broker at Equitiworld Securities.

Turnover fell back to P592.41 million from last Friday's P866.85 million.

Few large caps were spared from the selldown with Globe Telecom leading the way, falling P10 to P615 on top turnover of P81.72 million.

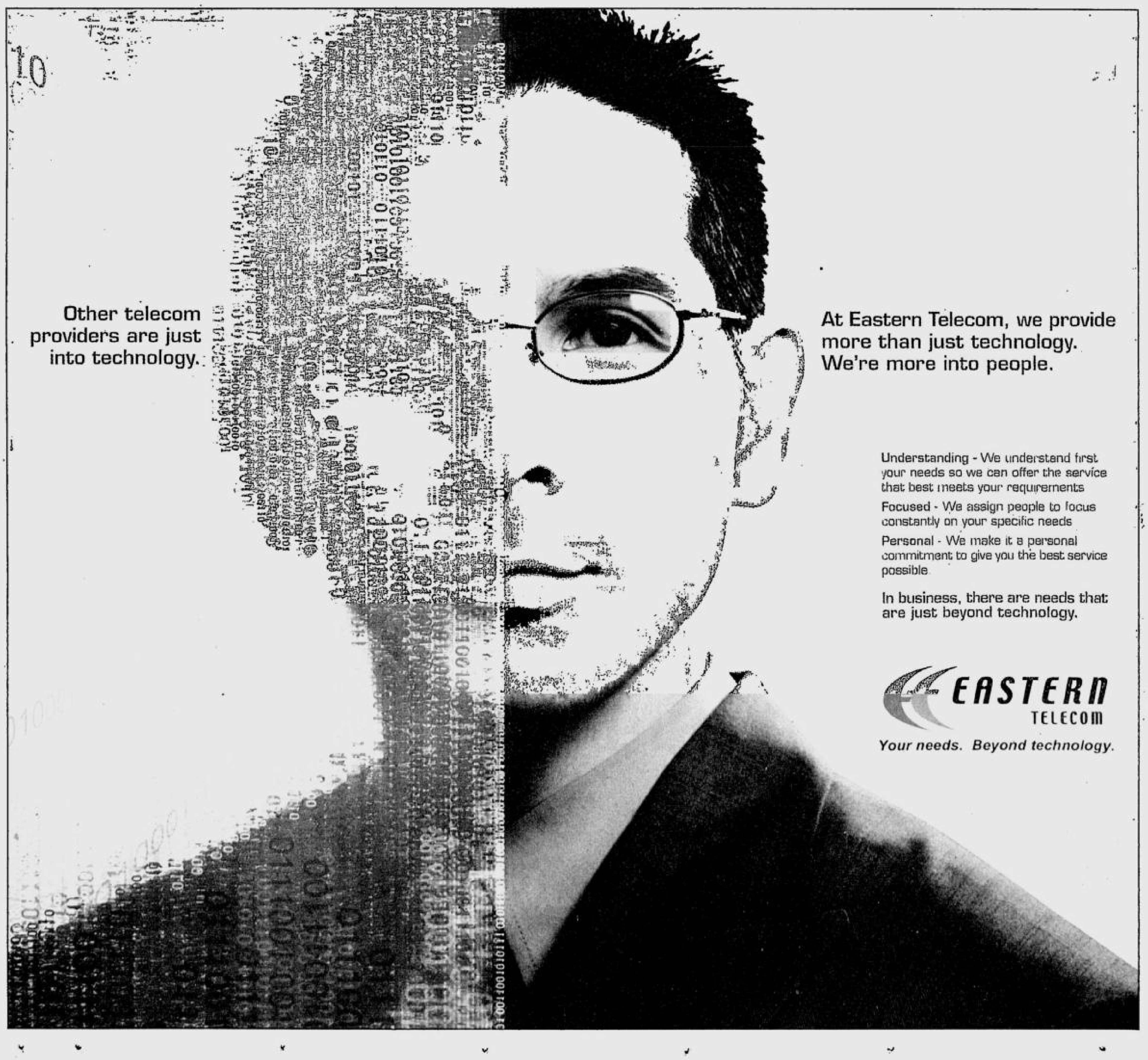
Other Ayala group stocks were also dumped with Bank of the Philippine Islands falling one peso to P44.50, Ayala Corp. off 15 centavos at P4.50 and Ayala Land off 10 centavos at P5.60.

On the upside Petron Corp. evaded the profit taking spree, finishing up four centavos at P1.84.

"Technically I think Petron is a good buy at around this level," said Soller.

Philippine National Bank surged 75 centavos, or 3.3 percent to P23.25.

Reuters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RP, 2 OTHER ASEAN EXPORTERS

EU cuts tariff on canned tuna

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE EUROPEAN Union Council of Member States has agreed to grant a 12-percent duty, or half the prevailing rate, on 25,000 tons of canned tuna from the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

The country's share of the quota was placed at 9,000 metric tons while Thailand will get 13,000 metric tons. Indonesia will get 2,750 tons while 25 tons will be free for all. This was based on these countries' export performance since 1994.

This was disclosed by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who hailed the verdict as the Philippines' first victory in a trade dispute case filed with the World Trade Organization.

The 5-year import quota, to be divided between the three countries, will start next month and will have a growth factor of at least 3 percent starting next year.

The EU Council's decision has put to a close a simmering dispute between the EU and certain tuna exporting countries that started in the WTO Doha round of negotiations in 2001. During the negotiations, the Philippines and Thailand complained about the EU's decision to grant duty-free access to canned tuna from former colonies in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Roxas said the Philippines was able to persuade France at the last minute to withdraw its objection to the preferred access perks. France had earlier threatened to shoot down the deal in retaliation for Thailand's move to file a complaint with the WTO on the EU's sugar subsidy program which has been beneficial to France.

The Philippines and Thailand had brought the canned tuna issue for mediation to the WTO's dispute settlement board last year which had urged the EU to make a settlement offer acceptable to the two complainants.

"The EU's adoption of the WTO mediator's opinion is the first time that mediation has succeeded in resolving membership disputes," Roxas said.

Roxas said the quota would benefit roughly a third of the country's exports of canned tuna to Europe. He said this would allow the Mindanao-based tuna canners to penetrate Europe's fast-growing retail market and build on its dominant position in the institutional markets where hotels, restaurants and large-scale retailers market the tuna under their own brand names.

The Philippines and Thailand had grudgingly included Indonesia in the compensation package even though the latter had joined the negotiating table only when the talks had already reached the advanced stage.

Gov't seeks World Bank funding for ARMM dev't

THE GOVERNMENT is courting the World Bank to finance a P1-billion development program for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) that involves mainly the provision of education to Muslim youths.

In a meeting with World Bank officials yesterday, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri urged the bank to support the government's initiative to address the huge number of out-of-school youths in the ARMM area.

The program hopes to encourage parents to keep their children in school.

Neri specifically said instituting feeding programs in public schools would help boost the number of enrollees since parents would have to spend less for food allowances and that income of local farmers would be enhanced.

"Parents are constrained (to send children to school) for several reasons, like the cost of transportation and school materials, and the opportunity cost from child labor," said Neri.

Neri added that the feeding program was expected to stimulate productivity and income in the area. He said the program would create more demand for food and thus encourage farmers to increase their production.

The program is also seen to help improve the peace and order situation in the area.

Neri said the program could start with an initial funding of P1 billion but it would require a total of P5 billion when it was institutionalized in areas outside ARMM.

Michelle V. Remo

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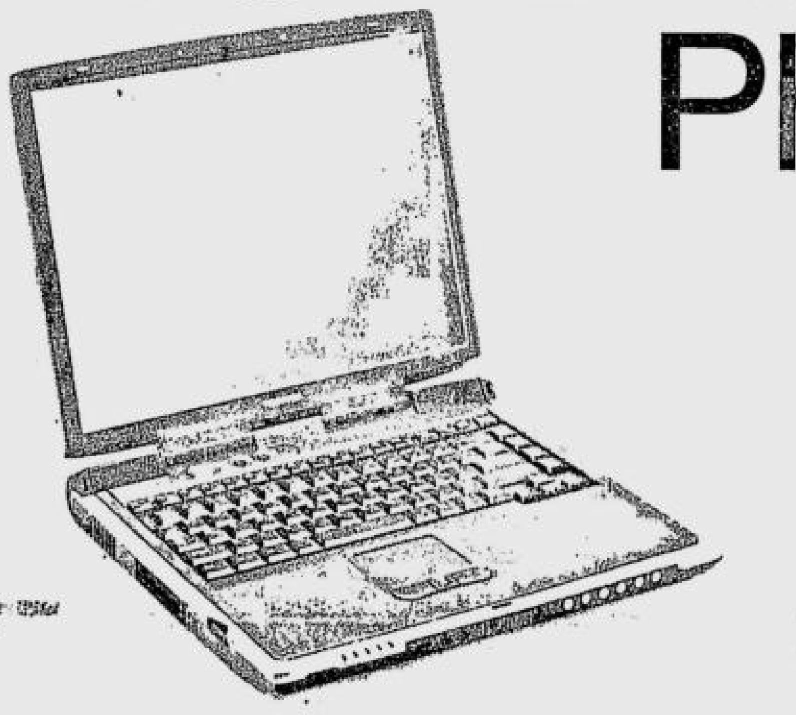
No.1 Notebook Computer in the Philippines

Source: IDC Asia Pacific PC Tracker, Q4 2002



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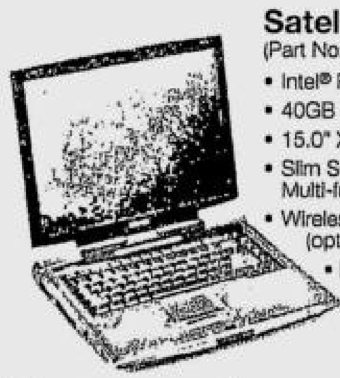

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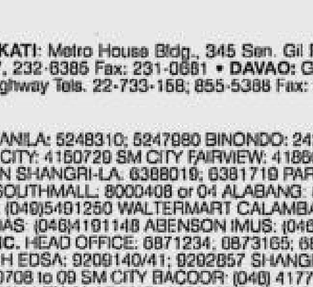

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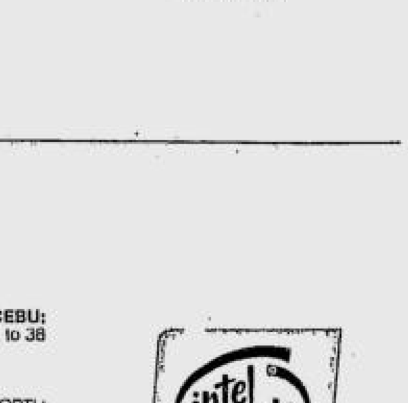

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Mitsubishi Motors announces auto parts export production plan

JAPANESE automotive giant Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will manufacture in the Philippines Mitsubishi and Daimler-Chrysler parts for export, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II.

Roxas said the parts production project was on top of Mitsubishi's plan to make the Philippines its export hub for Asian utility vehicles (AUV) in the region. Roxas met with Mitsubishi Motors officials in Japan last week.

Roxas said the company had asked the government for export incentives and market arrangements that would allow it to sell more vehicles in the domestic market.

The Board of Investments is currently drawing up an incentive package for the automotive industry as part of the government's desire to spur more exports of completely built-up units from the Philippines.

Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. senior vice president Melchor S. Dizon said the company's export and parts production plans would be dependent on the market conditions, incentives and taxes.

The BOI plans to subsidize CBU exports of vehicle manufacturers through the grant of tax credits per unit shipped out that can be used to offset the manufacturers taxes on domestic sales.

Mitsubishi is currently in the midst of realigning its Asean operations following the onset of the Asean Free Trade Area (where duties have fallen to 5 percent and below) and the entry of a new controlling shareholder, Daimler-Chrysler. Mitsubishi has already stopped the assembly of its Lancer models in the Philippines (which it would bring in from Thailand) in order to maximize its production line for AUVs and other commercial vehicle models.

Aside from Mitsubishi, Roxas reported that Honda Motor Co. had also confirmed during the President's state visit to Japan the company's plan to export CBUs of automobiles and motorcycles from the Philippines to the Asean market by 2005.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

French meal voucher firm enters RP mart

A LARGE French employee benefit management specialist, Sodexho Pass International, has announced its entry into the Philippine market.

Sodexho Pass, an affiliate of French multinational firm Sodexho Alliance, is bringing the concept of providing local companies with the meal and food voucher system for their employees.

"It is quite simple: Sodexho issues the meal and food pass to client companies, tailor fit to their requirements of face value, mode of delivery and other added service. The client companies then distribute these passes to the employees. To respect the purpose of the benefit, yet leaving freedom of choice to the employee, they then use the voucher to purchase meals and food from restaurants, groceries, supermarkets or any other food outlet comprising the Sodexho Pass network," Frans Tiebout, Sodexho Pass Philippine general manager, explained.

"Sodexho then reimburses the accredited establishments on behalf of its corporate clients," Tiebout said.

Through its Philippine subsidiary, Sodexho Pass Inc.—where the SM Group is a minority partner—Sodexho Pass International marks its first operation in South East Asia.

Pierre Henry, area director for Europe, Africa and Asia, said the company chose to invest in the Philippines because "there is evidently a strong culture of giving employee benefits here in the Philippines."

Sodexho Pass International is present in 25 countries with 126,000 corporate clients and eight billion beneficiaries with 800,000 accredited establishments worldwide.

Gov't keeps economic targets

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTER-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee has decided to maintain the government's macro-economic targets for this year in view of the country's ability to breeze through the impact of the Iraq crisis and the outbreak of the killer SARS virus.

DBCC sources yesterday said the committee's technical working group, in its meeting last Friday, had agreed to retain all the macro-economic targets for 2003, including that of inflation which has so far averaged way below the 4.5-5.5 percent target.

The DBCC said, actual performance during the first five months of the year was still on track with those targets.

The Cabinet-level DBCC is expected to validate the technical working group's recommendation in another meeting within this week, the sources said.

The 2003 targets reaffirmed by the technical working group were the 4.2-5.2 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth and the 4.5-5.4 percent gross national product (GNP) growth.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given year while the GNP represents the GDP and the net factor income from abroad.

The sources said the DBCC had considered scaling down the 4.5-5.5 percent inflation rate projection for this year, but had, in the end, decided to keep the original target range to give monetary authorities more flexibility.

In the first five months of the year, the inflation rate has averaged at 2.8 percent or way below the full-year projection.

The DBCC, likewise, retained the budget deficit ceiling of P202 billion for the year.

Officials noted a significant improvement in revenue collection in the first five months of the year, bolstering hopes of attaining the budget ceiling for the year.

The macro-economic targets assumed that the 91-day Treasury bill rate would average at 8-9 percent for the year while the peso-dollar exchange rate would range at 52 to 54 to the dollar.

The country's export receipts are projected to grow by 5 percent while the import bill, by 6 percent.

Caltex goes into retailing

CHEVRONTEXACO (CVX), through Caltex (Philippines), Inc. (CPI), said it would open 10 company-operated service stations in the country.

The company said it had already started directly operating two Caltex stations through Caltex Services (Philippines) Inc. (CALSERV).

This made Caltex the first among the oil majors the first to directly engage in fuel retailing in the country.

The move entails some $2.5 million in investments.

CALSERV recently opened a Caltex station in San Juan and another in Pasay City. The company plans to open six more sites by mid-July and two more in the later this year.

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		130,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	320,000
10.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
11.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)		10,200,00
12.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
13.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	600,000/600,000	450,000
14.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	165,000
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16.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	Please call
17.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
18.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	800,000	750,000
19.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	700,000
20.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	135,000
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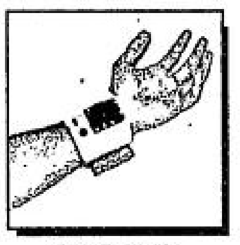

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of EEI CORPORATION will be held on June 20, 2003, at 10:00 A.M. at RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Certification of Sending of Notices and Quorum.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 11, 2002.
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Review of Operations.
   a. 2002 Highlights
   b. Outlook for 2003
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers.
5. Election of Directors.
6. Appointment of External Auditors.
7. Amendment of the following provisions in the By-Laws:
   a. Article II, Sec. 1
   b. Article III, Sec. 1, 4 & 8 (new)
   c. Article IV, Sec. 1, 2, 3 & 4 (new)
8. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting.
9. Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2003 as the record date for the purpose of determining the Company's stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, should accomplish the proxy form which have been mailed to them together with the Agenda, Proxy Statement, and Annual Report, and return the same to us not later than 24 hours before the meeting.

FERDINAND G. VILLAFUERTE
Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary

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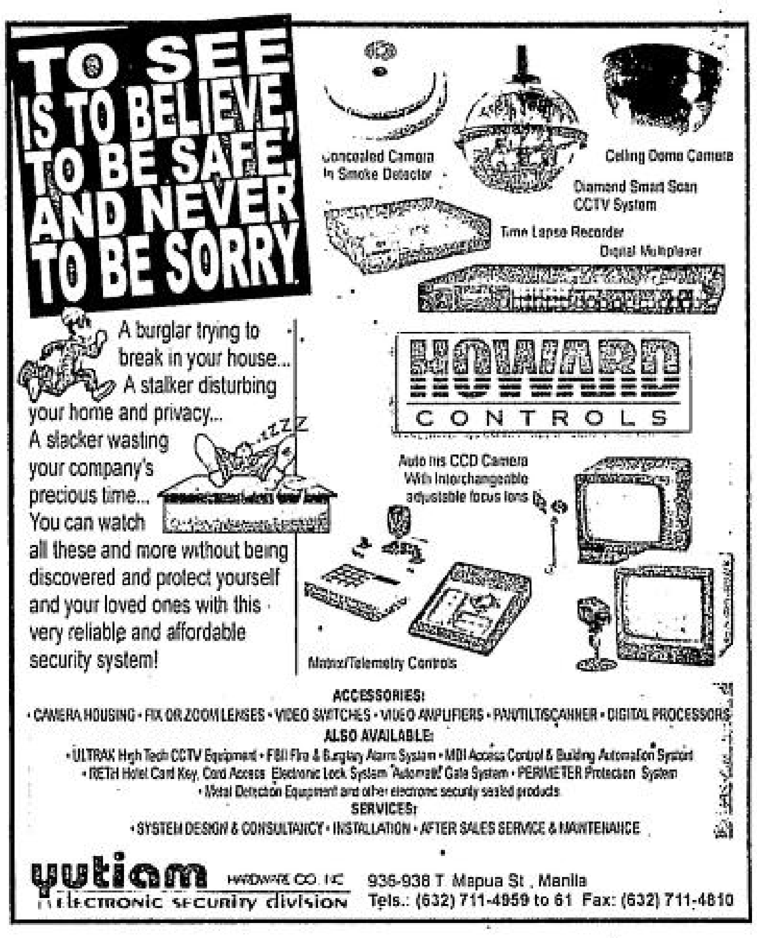

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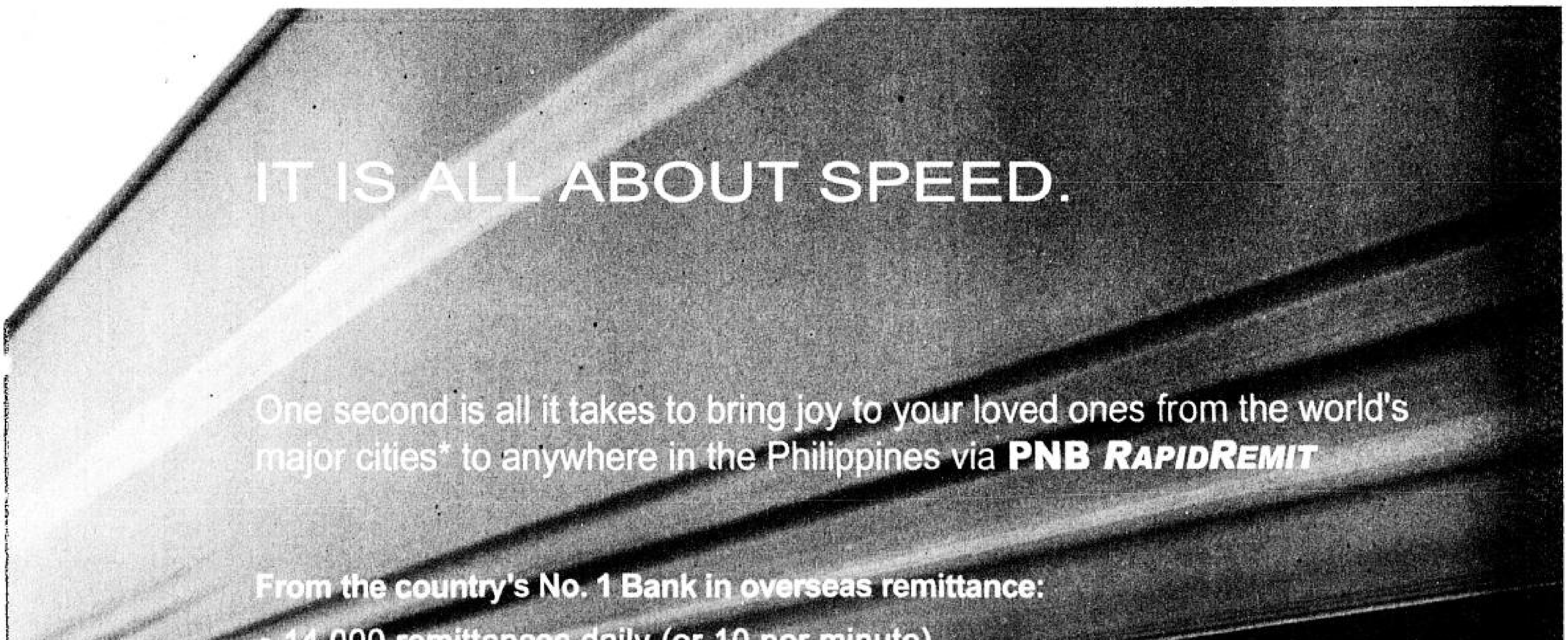

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Ron Nathan

THIS article is intended for traders who want to make money so there are no jokes today. I have been waiting a long time to write it but the market was too boring for me to do so. In the past week, however, since Gloria convinced President Bush that the Philippines is worth investing in, the Phisix has risen nearly 100 points and turnover has increased from P100 million to P900 million. Foreign brokers, who completely dominate our tiny market, have been selling consistently since April 2002, and it is only in the past few weeks that they have been buying. Usually, they are net buyers or sellers of P10-P20 million, almost irrelevant, but on Thursday, they were net buyers of over P400 million and on Friday over P200 million. This is why prices were in an ever-accelerating trend on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Local brokers were selling into the rise, having bought stock at much lower levels.

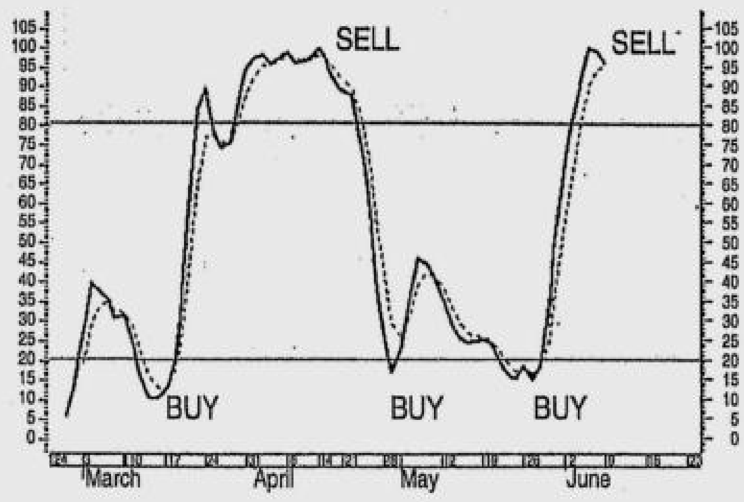
As a technical analyst, I am not interested in what the company does, who is on the board, or what the balance sheet looks like. By no stretch of imagination could BENPRES be called a good stock, The parent company and most of its subsidiaries owe huge amounts of money. Yet, if you had bought the stock at 8 centavos earlier this year, you would have quadrupled your money. You could not have done this with SMPH, ALI, TEL or GLO, even though they are fundamentally far superior. So long as the stock has sufficient liquidity to trade it, it should be charted and followed for BUY and SELL signals.

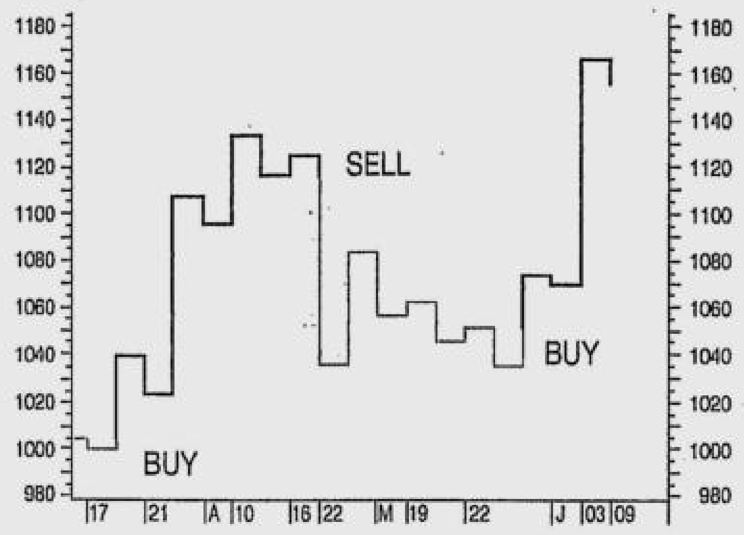
There are many kinds of indicators that technical analysts use: candlesticks, MACD, oscillators, relative strength, CCI, negative volume, etc., but as they use the same data, open, close, high, low and volume, their conclusions are often similar. Personally, I use momentum, KAGI, and Point and Figure charts. The charts reproduced in today's article merit careful study. Data is supplied by the PSE or the newspapers and cannot be tampered with, so what you see, although incredible, is real.

The first chart is a slow stochastic momentum indicator, which differs from the price chart only slightly. Most of the time, they will move up or down together, but as a chart rises or falls more slowly, momentum will decline. This is a signal that the price is approaching a top or bottom and can be expected to reverse. If the indicator is above 80, the stock is overbought and carries a high degree of risk. The closer it is to 100, the higher the risk. As soon as the lines cross in a downward movement, you must SELL. If the stock is in the neutral zone, between 20 and 80, the degree of risk is less and you may choose to ignore the signal but at your own peril. Many chartists ignore signals in the neutral zone.

Conversely, if the indicator is at 20, or below, then the stock is oversold and should be bought, but not until the two lines cross upwards because the stock may remain in limbo for weeks or even months. Momentum is superior to price because at tops and bottoms, it ceases to be trend-following and becomes trend-predictive. To plot the chart, you need a computer and the software. If you look at the BUYS and SELLS, you will be amazed to find that they coincide exactly with the turning points of the index. In at the bottom (3 times), out at the top—everybody's dream.

The other chart, KAGI, originated in Japan but was abandoned in favor of candlesticks. It does not require a computer, only a book of graph paper and two pens, red and green. On the computer, as soon as the zeros and crosses change color, you trade. If it changes from red to green, BUY; if it changes from green to red, SELL. You do not have to understand what you are doing. So long as you are not color blind,





just follow the color change. Any 6th grader can do it and you can plot 25 stocks easily in five minutes.

If you want to learn KAGI, buy Steve Nison's Beyond Candlesticks, which explains it in detail. It is no longer on the Internet. Do not buy the latest edition as KAGI has been deleted in favor of other indicators. KAGI has advantages and disadvantages. If a stock goes into a long-term uptrend, KAGI will usually keep you in all the way up, whereas most other indicators will get you out every time it corrects. My BUY signal of TEL, six months ago at P226, has not yet given a SELL signal though one appears to be on the horizon. GLO gave a BUY at P410, a SELL at P600 and a BUY at P530. As the INQUIRER prints charts in black and white, I have indicated the signals by arrows.

In markets, which are moving sideways, KAGI may get you in and out at roughly the same price. This is not painful, just irritating but if you combine both the charts and see that the KAGI BUY is not oversold, you need not follow it, and this will reduce the number of false signals. I will be sending out charts by e-mail to my subscribers as an added free service and it should make for more profitable trading. The newsletter is not free, it is not for beginners, and you need at least P200,000 capital, preferably P500,000, to use it advantageously.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

PLDT seen resuming dividend payments in '05

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to resume dividend payments to its common shareholders by 2005 with cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.'s own dividend payout seen easing PLDT's ability to meet the restrictive covenants imposed by its creditors.

"We believe that resuming dividend payments by 2005 would be problematic due to the restrictive covenants imposed by PLDT's creditors and the difficulty of obtaining creditor approval," stockbrokerage UBS Warburg said in its May 30 report. "However, a higher dividend payout ratio from Smart would allow PLDT to more easily meet its covenants and secure the necessary approval for dividend payments, in our view."

The company stopped making regular dividend payments to its common shareholders in the second quarter of 2002. PLDT had to address more than $1.3 billion worth of maturing obligations from that year to 2004.

But PLDT's consistent strong performance, buoyed by the success of Smart, had enabled the company to strengthen its cash flow and be in better position to resume dividend payments.

PLDT posted a P2.5-billion net income in the first quarter. Coupled with this good performance, the company was also able to pare down its debts both in the fixed line and cellular levels.

It also went through a successful liability management program that restructured around $644 million in debts maturing in 2002 to 2004.

With Smart gaining approval from its creditors to make a dividend payout of 70 percent, or P4.3 billion, of its 2002 net income, PLDT is expected to be in a healthier position not only to make its own dividend payments but also to refinance its maturities moving forward.

"As a result of these initiatives, we estimate PLDT may need to refinance only $200 million from 2005 to 2007, or 17 percent of around $1.2 billion in debt maturing this period," UBS Warburg said.

Asian Bond Fund seen boosting regional cooperation, capital marts

SINGAPORE—The new $1-billion Asian Bond Fund will raise cooperation among the region's monetary authorities and develop Asia's capital markets, Standard and Poor's said yesterday.

"The creation of the fund is a positive development in regional financial cooperation and Standard and Poor's applauds this as a tangible step in the evolution of a regional bond market," the credit agency's regional head, Cecile Saavedra, said.

Thai Premier Thaksin Shinawatra announced last week the launch of the ABF, to be backed by 11 countries in the Asia Pacific.

The bond is the brainchild of Shinawatra and, apart from Thailand, the other participants are Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Central banks in Japan, the Philippines and Singapore have announced separately that they will each provide $100 million to the fund, while Australia's reserve bank will contribute $50 million.

"Developed countries know how to use instruments to (create) capital but countries in Asia, the majority still don't have enough access to that kind of instrument yet. This is the first step," the Thai premier said.

"Apart from returning investment to participating countries, we are creating an instrument to build prosperity for Asian countries. It's time for Asian countries to unite."

Standard and Poor's said it would take some time for the region to realize the benefits due to the small size of the issuance and urged greater private sector participation if the capital market is to flourish.

"Although the thinking behind the establishment of this fund is commendable, the nominal size of the fund indicates that the initial practical impact will be limited," Saavedra said.

"What Standard and Poor's would like to see over the longer term is greater participation in the bond market by the private sector.

"Only with active participation by private investors and private-sector issuers will there be a vibrant and effective regional bond market."

AFP

Treasury bill yields continue . . .

From page B1

not be dependent on the US Federal Reserve, which is expected to cut its policy rates by 50 basis points later this month. The European Monetary Authority likewise cut its policy rate by 50 basis points last June 5.

Edeza said other long-term interest rates would adjust lower because of the sufficient liquidity.

For instance, he said the government's 20-year treasury bond rate should go down by 10-30 basis points during the auction today.

Doris C. Dumlao

Pre-need firm probed for trust fund violations

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has formed a team to investigate Asian Diamond Plans for trust fund and other violations.

The team will be composed of two personnel from the SEC's compliance and enforcement department and one from the non-traditional securities and instruments department.

The SEC last year found that Asian Diamond Plans had a trust fund deficiency of P13.5 million and a supposed American-Singaporean group had subsequently bought a major stake in the pre-need firm from erstwhile shareholders Damaso Magbual.

Last week, the SEC said in a statement that the number of pre-need companies it has granted licenses to operate this year had dropped to 43 from 46 last year as many companies continued to experience financial difficulties.

The corporate watchdog said that three pre-need companies—Celestial Memorial Life Plan Inc., Pension and Retirement Plan Corp. and Asian Diamond Plans Inc.—were still "resolving their financial concerns."

East Asia Plans Inc. did not seek to apply for renewal of its dealer's license. Legacy Scholarship Pension Plan Inc. absorbed Consolidated Plans Inc., resulting in a merged corporation called Legacy Consolidated Plans Inc.

All this would have brought down the number of pre-need companies licensed for 2003 to 41 but the SEC renewed the licenses of Scholarship Plan Philippines Inc. and Primanila Plans Inc., both of which did not have a dealer's license in 2002.

In a television interview two weeks ago, SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department director Emil Aquino said that some pre-need companies had trust fund deficiencies.

INTEREST RATES

June 09, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 6-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.5577	6.875
3 Months	6.6077	6.9058
6 Months	7.4135	7.4808
1 Year	7.5673	7.7327
2 Years	8.3058	8.4365
3 Years	9.3231	9.3731
4 Years	9.9192	10.0462
5 Years	10.5038	10.5654
7 Years	11.0462	11.1519
10 Years	11.4442	11.6192
20 Years	11.8865	11.9789
25 Years	12.325	12.3635

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, June 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16.25	15.75	16.25	47,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	44	44.5	1,806,100
China Banking Corp.	715	715	715	715	50
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	32	30	30.5	412,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	30	28.5	29	716,000
Prudential Bank	300	300	300	300	620
Philippine National Bank	22.5	23.25	22.5	23.25	48,200
Security Bank Corp.	11	11	11	11	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	20,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	559,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	22,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1520	1520	1520	1520	2,090
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1120	1115	1115	1,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15.25	15	15	35,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	1,790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	625	630	615	615	132,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.042	0.042	6,900,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	90,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	840,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	462.5	462.5	460	462.5	91,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	380,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7	7.4	7	7.2	667,000
Manila Electric Co. B	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	882,700
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.88	1.84	1.84	34,824,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.62	760,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	248,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	27,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	410,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.58	1.5	1.58	1,008,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	2,210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	11,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	226,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	77,000
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63	64	776,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.45	4.5	13,804,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	138,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,400,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	60,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	11,900,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.165	0.15	0.165	550,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.25	390,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	98,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.1	0.08	0.1	300,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	69,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.55	450,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.77	0.71	0.77	9,710,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.2	0.2	1,500,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	770,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	90,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	105,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.45	670,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	890,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	120,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	1,750,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15	15	15	15	206,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	7,480,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.2	520,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	130,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	240,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	1,390,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.205	12,030,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	60,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.91	5,880,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.0525	0.06	0.0525	0.055	2,700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	90,000
Primex Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	798,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	12,236,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	180,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	69,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	62,000,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.02	0.023	0.02	0.021	6,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	3,695,950	122,651,525.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	107,595,470	351,120,645.00
PRO	43,624,000	117,569,770.00
Mining	71,360,000	393,900.00
OIL	87,100,000	383,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	313,420,420	592,243,290.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	416.74	DOWN 3.12
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,645.17	DOWN 8.44
PRO	497.04	DOWN 6.54
Mining	1,169.17	DOWN 1.35
OIL	1.15	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	729.77	DOWN 4.12
Composite	1,155.71	DOWN 8.13

DISCLOSURES

BENPRES Holdings Corp. disclosed the appointment of Ana Margarita Dy as compliance officer of the company.

* * *

CITY & Land Developers Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.1242 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 6 and will be payable on July 30.

* * *

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. denied its Waterfront Hotel in Lahug will close down and clarified that it was only the international casino operations inside the hotel that temporarily ceased operations due to a slowdown in business caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak.

* * *

ARANETA Properties Inc. signed a joint venture agreement with Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. for the development of a portion of its property in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 9, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.854190	1.000000	53.377000
Japan	Yen	0.007198	0.008427	0.449800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.419749	1.662100	88.717900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109533	0.128230	6.844500
Switzerland	Franc	0.647654	0.758208	40.470900
Canada	Dollar	0.629701	0.737191	39.349000
Singapore	Dollar	0.494323	0.578704	30.889500
Australia	Dollar	0.563747	0.659979	35.227700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.265876	2.652661	141.591100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227778	0.266660	14.233500
Brunei	Dollar	0.492897	0.577034	30.800300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020524	0.024027	1.282500
UAE	Dirham	0.232565	0.272264	14.532600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.170700	62.488500
Argentina	Peso	0.302368	0.353982	18.894500
Brazil	REAL	0.296491	0.347102	18.527300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134682	0.157672	8.416100
India	Rupee	0.018260	0.021377	1.141000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224817	0.263193	14.048500
Mexico	New Peso	0.079704	0.093310	4.980600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493039	0.577201	30.809300
Norway	Kroner	0.122451	0.143353	7.651800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014830	0.017361	0.926700
South Africa	Rand	0.106375	0.124533	6.647200
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000833	0.044500
Sweden	Kroner	0.109906	0.128667	6.867900
Syria	Pound	0.020338	0.023810	1.270900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024701	0.028918	1.543600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000536	0.000627	0.033500

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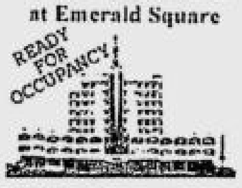

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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology is now open.

Interested applicants are invited to send their formal application to the Honorable SCP Chairman JULITO D. VITRIOLO at the CHED Central Office, 5/F DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City with Tel. No. (02) 636-1691 or to:

Dr. HERNANDO R. GOMEZ
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1693

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1. A Filipino citizen;
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4. Must be at least 40 years old but not more than 60 at the time of application; and
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Application Requirements

1. Formal application letter addressed to the SCP Chair
2. Comprehensive resumé with authenticated supporting documents
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Deadline for Submission of Application and Requirements — June 30, 2003

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For further information, please contact Mr. Benjamin C. Formento, Human Resource Management Officer III, Personnel Section, Administrative Division, tel. no. 892-85-75.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA BAUTISTA-BATALLONES
Deputy Executive Director

(PDI–June 10, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL TO EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE RIZALINA T. CRUZ AMONG HEIRS AS PER DOCUMENT NOTARIZED BY FRANCISCO A CARANDANG JR AS DOC. NO. 29; PAGE NO. 07; BOOK NO 01; SERIES OF 2003 PDI-JUNE 10, 17 & 24, 2003

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(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA
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(PDI–June 9, 10 & 11, 2003)

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REV. FR. JESUS LARGO MANCEBO, O.P.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on Sunday, June 8, 2003 at the UST Hospital
at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church (UST), Mass at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at the UST Parish Church.

Interment follows at the Dominican Cemetery, San Juan.

He served the Filipino people for over 50 years.

LOURDES HORTELANO MELCHOR

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 8, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved children **Rodrigo**, **Antonio**, **Leticia** and **Myrna** request you to join us in celebrating Lourdes' communion with God.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 10, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 12, 2003 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

TRINIDAD A. GOMEZ, M.D.

of Calbayog City, Samar
Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 9, 2003 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Cremation will be held on June 12, 2003 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

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Masbate Branch, Masbate City

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2. To submit together with bidders bond equivalent to 10% of bid price, which should be in Cash, Manager or Cashiers Check; and,
3. To be on time, no bids will be accepted once unsealing of bids commences.

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(PDI--June 9 & 10, 2003)

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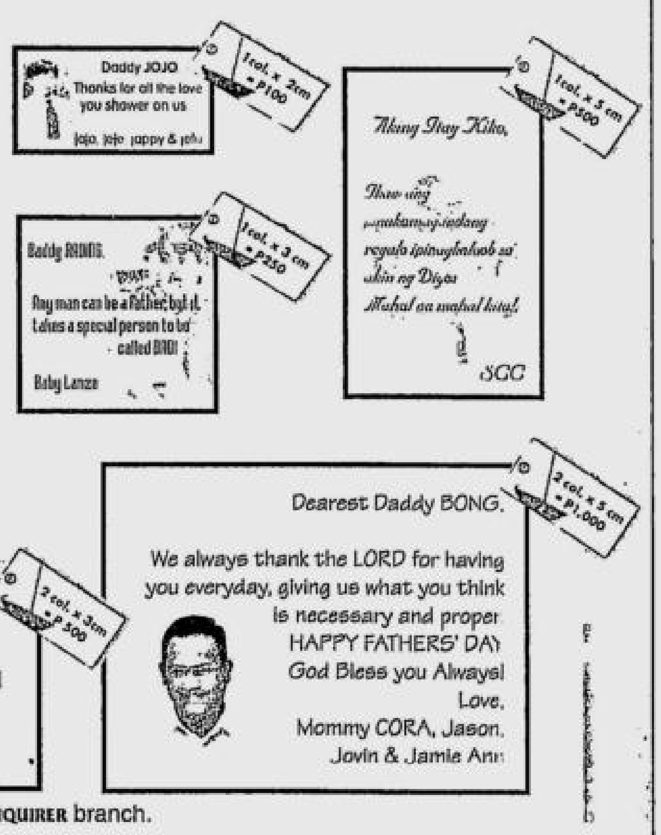
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MEETING WITH DEVELOPERS, BANKERS

GMA assesses housing situation

By Charles E. Buban

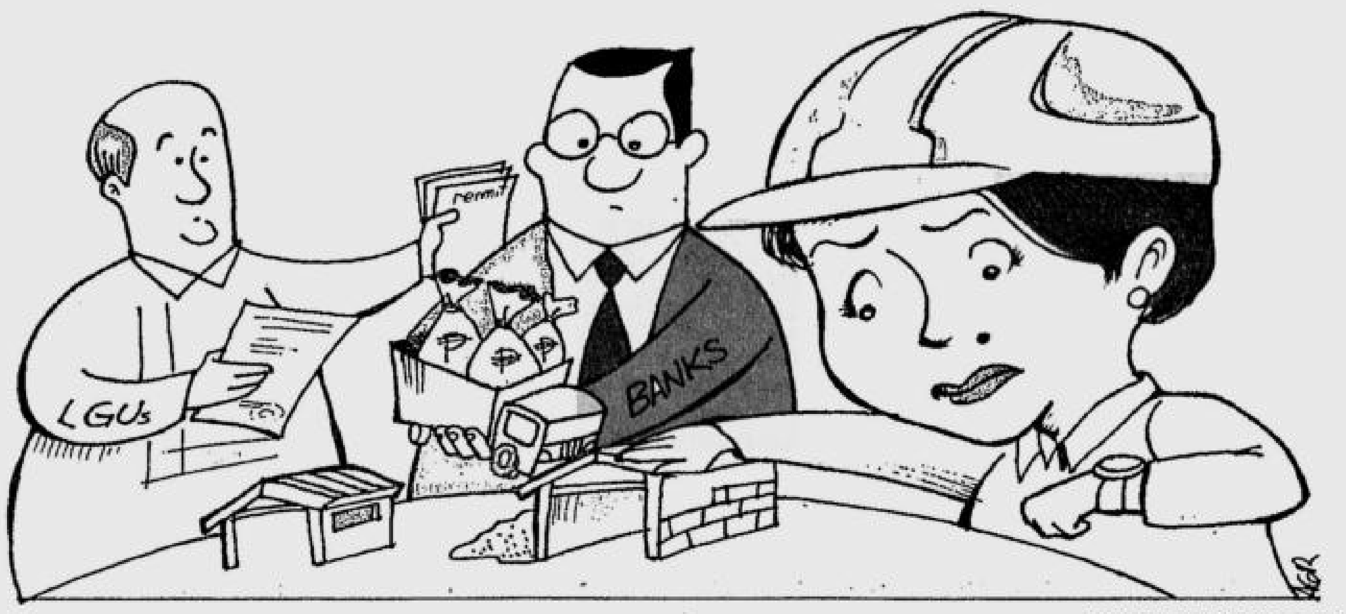


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last week met with the country's top developers and private bankers to discuss the status of the housing sector as well as other issues and concerns to spur more housing production up to the end of her term in 2004.

Present during the meeting held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City were top executives of the country's leading banks led by Bankers Association of the Philippines president Cesar Virata as well as officers of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Chamber of Thrift Banks.

The President urged the bankers to provide more long-term funds for housing and to offer more developmental loans to developers.

"The meeting underscored the President's commitment to tap the housing industry to pump-prime the economy as well as the vital role that developers play in providing decent and affordable housing," said Jesus Atencio, national president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, whose members were also in attendance.

Among the SHDA developers that attended the meeting were Ayala Land, Filinvest, Robinsons Homes, Moldex Realty, Ceres Homes, Property Company of Friends and the Firm Builders Group. Representatives of Sta. Lucia, Globe Asiatic and members of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations were also in attendance.

The President was accompanied by senior members of her Cabinet and other officials: Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair and Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, Presidential consultant on housing Deogracias Vistan and HUDCC vice chair Amado Bagatsing

Vistan, who leads the implementation of Project for Affordable Acquisition of Residential Units by Government Employees or Project A Acquire, presented a proposal to rechannel surplus funds of the Pag-Ibig Fund—amounting to P3 billion this year—to be utilized by private banks for mortgages and contracts with a term of 20 years at a fixed rate of 11 percent.

Atencio noted the merits of the proposal and said the SHDA will soon be meeting with the banks to discuss the details and procedures.

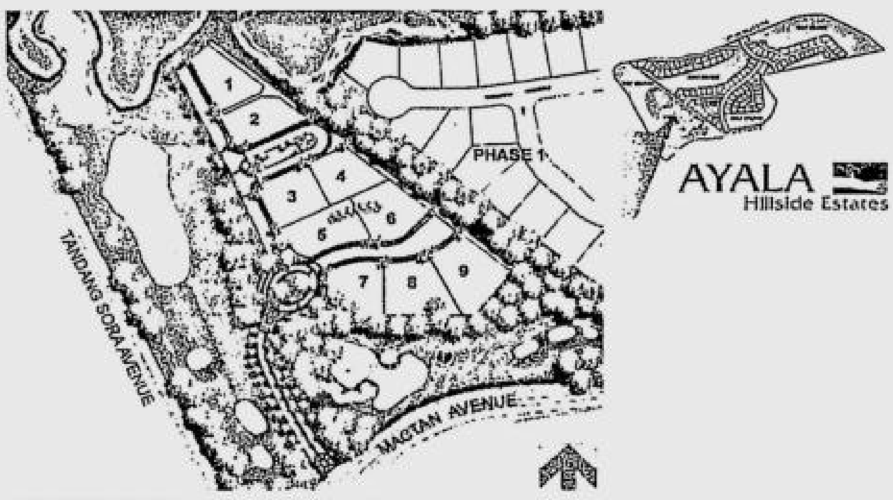
Other concerns

The groups also discussed other concerns with the President including:

- **10 percent VAT on housing payments and banking services.** Finance Secretary Camacho informed developers in attendance that the administration fully supports the SHDA's advocacy to revert to 5 percent the gross receipts tax scheme.

Speaker Jose de Venecia assured President Macapagal that the Lower House has already deliberated and passed the bill exempting housing loan payments from VAT.

- **Developers' concerns on DAR conversion and exemption procedures.** Atencio reported on the respectable gains brought about by reforms installed by Pagdanganan—the SHDA in regular coordination with the Center for Land Use Policy Planning Implementation had 43 percent of the 75 priority applications released and approved.
- **LGU delays and bureaucratic red tape.** Ms Macapagal assured developers to personally convince and talk to mayors and other LGU officials to fast track all housing-related permits at the local level. The President also added she has given instructions to Defensor to call for a specific LGU Summit to thresh out housing-related concerns.



THE PINNACLE at Ayala Hillside Estates

Going home to exclusive, well-secured enclave

IN ADDITION to unmatched views within city limits, Ayala Hillside Estates in Quezon City will soon be offering a select number of homeowners two more distinct advantages: privacy and anonymity like they have never experienced before in any Metro Manila residential subdivision.

In one of the highest points of the 23-hectare community carved out of the former Capitol Hills Golf Course in Diliman, Quezon City, a well-secured enclave has been earmarked for residents who desire maximum privacy. To be referred to as The Pinnacle at Ayala Hillside Estates, the exclusive neighborhood with only nine lots will have limited and carefully screened access and its own dedicated security personnel.

Highest levels of privacy

According to Ayala Land Inc. senior vice president Tristan dela Rosa, this section of Ayala Hillside Estates was developed in response to requests from prospective homeowners for the highest levels of privacy. Research, conducted by ALI, revealed that many affluent buyers put a high premium on this advantage.

Contrary to generally-held notions, many of the most affluent customers do not like to be touted as such, particularly in their choice of property for their home, according to Dela Rosa. "They would rather enjoy their anonymity and keep their privacy when they go home to sleep at night."

In relation to the rest of the sprawling Ayala Hillside Estates, ALI assistant vice president Joselito Luna likens lots here to penthouse units—a development's most prime properties. Like penthouse units, they enjoy superior views and are limited in number—exactly nine, each of which ranges from 800 to 1,300 square meters.

Accessibility

Like other sections of Ayala Hillside Estates in Quezon City, The Pinnacle is also nestled among the fairways of the new executive golf course being developed for Capitol Hills members in a portion of the original site. It is likewise accessible to the country's finest schools and within commuting distance of the country's major business districts, ranking it among the very few neighborhoods within city limits with magnificent views.

The entrance to this exclusive area is marked by an elegant and secure rampart which reflects the subdivision's Asian contemporary theme while establishing a sense of place for this cozy neighborhood. The distinct look of the area is complemented by a garden for the enjoyment of its residents with strong Zen influences.

A number of the lots also have added attractions: heritage trees that have been witness to years of Philippine history. Highly prized for how they enhance the landscape, these trees have been under the supervision of highly-trained tree specialists.

Over and above privacy and security, lot owners here can also enjoy other amenities of Ayala Hillside Estates. These include a multipurpose pavilion, swimming pool, basketball court, children's play area, and a number of parks.

It is a question of lifestyle

THOSE who work in the city have to contend with bad traffic, pollution, masses of people crowding you, very little parking space and a burgeoning garbage problem. In a perfect world, it would be possible to walk to work leisurely, take our children for strolls in the park, go to the mall, watch a movie and retire to our sanctum sanctorum without the risk of being mugged or falling victim to a drunk driver.

Perfection need not be a distant dream anymore.

Located right smack in the green surroundings of the Rockwell Center is The Manansala. It is no wonder that practically all the units have been sold and a new building right beside it is already in the works. While everyone else complains about travel time, residents of The Manansala only have to walk a few minutes. Once one crosses to Rockwell, the feeling of home is already felt.

Phenomenon in itself

The Rockwell Center is a phenomenon in itself. It is an exclusive self-contained community where world-class business, education, art, culture, shopping, dining and entertainment are in high perfect synergy. All these elements make for an experience worth talking about and being proud of. It is no wonder so many people have made the area their regular haunt just to be identified as part of the "in" crowd.

Residence at The Manansala puts an end to all the pretense. When you live at the Manansala, you are in and how! The very personal studio units, one-bedroom and the more spacious two or three-bedroom apartments allow a wide range of choices for whatever lifestyle you have.

Young professionals seeking independence are at liberty to make their own choices when they live at The Manansala. International level business and legal education is a five-minute walk to the Ateneo Professional Schools. Art, entertainment, culture, dining are all but five minutes away at the Power Plant Mall.

Families have the opportunity to concentrate on their family life and enjoy being with one another. The Manansala gives security, luxury, convenience and the power of choice all in a pollution-free environment.

Community fee

The units sport a clear and unmistakable Rockwell experience with imported granite and marble, high-grade faucets and taps, provisions for cable television and telephone lines, split-type air conditioners and ample parking for residents and guests and the gracious Asian elegance at the main lobby.

The community feel is very evident with easy access to a sprawling garden and the mall. Children need not send their parents in a fearful fit when they ask to go out with their friends. There is no danger in crossing the street because nobody needs to cross the street from the condominium buildings to the mall or the Rockwell Club.

Integration

One of the greatest things about the whole Rockwell area is integration. The Manansala, the Power Plant Mall and the Rockwell Club will be connected by sky bridges. Security is maintained since only residents with proximity cards are allowed to cross from one building to another via the sky bridge. No one needs to even bother with traffic because there is no traffic.

Residents also get exclusive membership to the Rockwell Club located right next to the mall featuring fully equipped gyms, squash courts, a sauna and spa facility, a diving and lapping pool and a children's clubhouse. It is reachable via the sky bridge network and all Manansala residents or residents to be who have already made their down payment are free to use all the facilities.

Those who work in the Makati Central Business district now have a much better choice.

The Manansala. When your life needs to be a work of art.

Getting home jobs done like a pro

By Charles E. Buban

I DON'T know, I think my fetish started as a child.

I remember drilling holes around the house using a screwdriver, taking my toys—and our stand fan—apart, and one time, playing with a soldering gun while my parents were out.

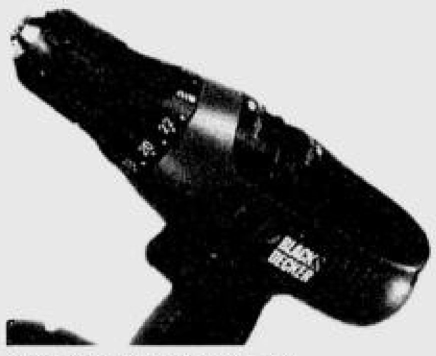
Though luckily I never once drilled myself (something I was always thankful for), my love for corded and cordless stuffs never abandoned me.

So when Black & Decker lent me one of their cordless 10 mm Variable Speed Reversing Drill/Driver Kit to try and test at home, I did not hesitate to accept the offer.

Drills are cool

I always wanted a cordless drill and this 12 volt CD431K fits my taste.

It has all the things I needed for do-it-yourself-ers like me and most homeowners will be pleased with its functionality.



BLACK & Decker CD431K

It is powered by a nickel cadmium battery that charges in just one hour and holds a charge which is quite enough for casual users like me.

The drill runs at speeds from 0 to 800 revolutions per minute, so the CD431K is superbly efficient to do anything I want it to.

Drill and drive

With this tool, one can drill and drive plus it has a variable speed/reverse switch with electric brake for controlled drilling and screwdriving.

Rotating action is smooth and the torque settings help prevent overdrilling or stripping the heads off of screws (it has 24 position clutch for screwdriving control).

The drill is very steady and has a great grip, and the large battery helps keep the weight centered so it doesn't really feel top heavy when being used.

The bottom line? You'll have no problem completing any basic household project with this tool. But if you intend to do major jobs, I suggest stepping up to professional-grade models, which Black & Decker also has.

STRUCTURALLY COMPLETE

Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. has completed the structural shells of Clusters 4, 5 and 6 of UN Gardens, a six-cluster residential development near United Nations Avenue in Paco, Manila. Finishing and mechanical works are ongoing for the three clusters. Clusters 1, 2 and 3 are undergoing structural shell construction, while work on roads and parking is underway.

Moldex offers one-stop-shop service

WHAT are the most common problems or concerns of families who want to buy or build their own houses?

Buying a house is one of the most difficult lifetime decisions to make. First, there is the problem of financing. Although a family may have enough monthly income to cover the required monthly installments for a house acquired on term payment, the amount of down payment or equity often presents a constraint.

Those who cannot raise the hefty amounts required usually turn to home financing institutions, such as banks and the Pag-Ibig Fund. Most often, however, applying for a housing loan sounds like a big deterrent to those who perceive the process and documentary requirements involved as hopelessly complicated. Even before taking the initial steps, some people shelve their plan of building their own house by adopting the common Filipino attitude of "*saka na lang* (let's postpone it for a future time)."

But the thing is, the loan available from financing institutions does not increase as much as the costs of materials and labor do. Hence, the "future time" becomes even more remote as the rise in construction costs makes the housing loan available insufficient to build a nice and comfortable house.

This is one problem that Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. intends to address with its one-stop-shop customer service called Perfect Home Service Package. MRMI's PHSP team helps a lot owner find a suitable home financing institution. It may be a bank or Pag-Ibig Fund for private employees, or GSIS (Government Service Insurance System) for government workers and flexible payment terms for the equity/down payment position.

MRMI markets a number of first-class residential subdivisions and economic housing villages owned and developed by Moldex Land Inc. and Moldex Realty Inc. Residential lots are available at Metrogate Silang Estates in Silang, Cavite; Metrogate Angeles in Pampanga; Metroview Ridge Estates in Antipolo City; Metrogate Meycauayan II and Metrogate Complex in Meycauayan, Bulacan; Metrogate San Jose in SJDM Bulacan; and Metrovilla Center in Valenzuela City.

House-and-lot packages are also available in Heritage Homes Meycauayan and Heritage Homes Trece Martires, Tagaytay Southridge Villas, and Metrogate Villas in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. A luxury residential project is 1322 Roxas Boulevard, a 57-story condominium at the corner of Padre Faura and Roxas Boulevard in Ermita, Manila.

Once the house is built, MRMI's PHSP goes further by looking for quality home furnishing items for the client, rounding off the unique customer service that makes our clients happy and satisfied, says MRMI president Editha L. Manansala.

Shanties undergo 'makeover' for P50,000

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

EIGHTEEN people live in the newly-built two-story house of widow Filipina Escusa, 61, a neighborhood *hilot*. She shares the house with her three children, 9 grandchildren and two daughters-in-law.

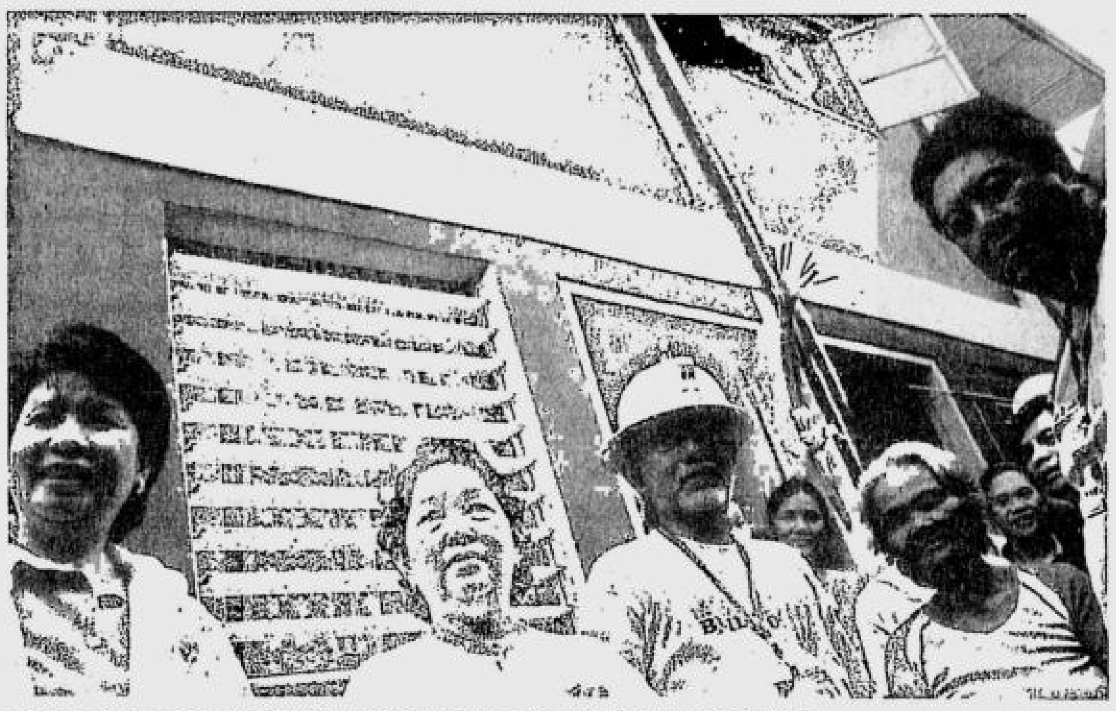
Filipina came from Samal, Davao. She was 6 years old when her aunt took her to Manila. She eventually settled in a squatters' community on Estrada Street in the Makati-Manila area when she married another native of Davao. They were blessed with three sons.

Now, Filipina has three families under one roof. Her first son has six children and the second has four of his own. Her youngest is still a student under the Couples for Christ scholarship program.

Escusa's neighbor, the Madronio family, also counts 19 members living in one house.

Juliana Madronio, another widow, has been a settler of Estrada Street since 1971. She shares her newly built two-story house with her six children and their families. She said her family now "lives comfortably when her house was converted to two stories."

BEFORE. CFC Gawad Kalinga South Sector A members continue renovations of a 2-story shanty.


AFTER. The model unit of Juliana Madronio's family with CFC Gawad Kalinga

The houses of the Escusas and the Madronios were part of the housing construction program of the Couples for Christ Gawad Kalinga South Sector A project conducted at the one-hectare Dagonoy Estates on Estrada Street bounded by Crisolita and Onyx Streets in the Makati-Manila area.

Construction—rather, renovation—started in December 2002. The houses of the Escusas and Madronios, completed last May 30 with a considerable part of the labor force provided by the two clans' members and neighbors, are now touted as "model units" of the project. The CFC is committed to rebuild the entire Dagonoy Estate and all of its 292 shanties averaging about 15 to 17 sq. m in lot size.

The CFC Gawad Kalinga rebuilding project is being conducted all over the country. The CFC has allotted an estimated P50,000 budget for the conversion of each shanty into a two-story concrete house. The houses have been built in such a way that vertical extension is possible.

The city government of Makati, meanwhile, has awarded the ownership of Dagonoy Estate to the community.

Community spirit

The bayanihan spirit, in this case, works in favor of keeping labor costs down. The P50,000 is allocated for materials. An informal association formed by the CFC, called Kapit Bahayan, organizes this community spirit of helping into "sweat equity." The residents pay the cost incurred by helping build houses.

Luckily, said project director Ed Almonia, there have been a lot of skilled workers in Dagonoy Estate.

Over 1,000 couple-members of CFC Gawad Kalinga South Sector A reside in Forbes Park, Dasmariñas Village, Urdaneta, Membo and Cembo, Pasay, Makati, and Manila.

Almonia said the organization sees about 300 more houses to be rebuilt in four to five years, depending on the availability of vacant lots.

Other programs

In the meantime, its other programs such as education opportunities for nursery, elementary, high school and even college students are ongoing. "Education is their future," Almonia said.

CFC Gawad Kalinga South Sector A fund generation and linkages head Bobby Rodrigo recounted that at the start, it wasn't easy to make people believe they could help, until the group immersed themselves in the community every day for two to three months.

Now, the group participates hands-on in rebuilding shanties into sturdy houses. The CFC Gawad Kalinga also provides the engineers and architects, who would most likely be CFC members themselves who provide their services for free.

Almonia discloses that unlike the first two houses, the next batch of 14 two-story houses would have concrete roof decks in preparation for their third stories. The reason for this, he said, was that up to six families resided in each house, thus, the need for a third floor.

Immeasurable satisfaction

And what do the CFC members get in return? No tangible rewards, maybe. But the satisfaction is immeasurable. "We do this out of love. It's part of our way of life already," said Almonia. "This is the start of our Gawad Kalinga area. Later on when we feel more confident, we will expand to another selected Gawad Kalinga area.

"We are also committed to give them real livelihood projects, guide them from the beginning until such time that the projects succeed," he added.

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION. A 2-story project with Almonia and Dagonoy Estates residents.

Construction materials provided for construction include "first-class" hollow block cement and other construction materials that are "sturdy" and "long-lasting," added Almonia.

The CFC taps members involved in the construction business and encourages them to bring the price of the materials as low as possible, to a level Almonia calls the "sacrifice price."

The CFC Gawad Kalinga could build more if it wanted to, but because of external factors such as demolition operations undertaken by urban settlement agencies, the CFC has to determine first which houses would be retained. This is a tedious process involving more settlers than there are available lots.

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Prominence II: Establishing new tradition in luxury living

FILINVEST Land Inc. recently unveiled its latest homes of distinction at Brentville International: Prominence II.

An exclusive subcommunity, Prominence II carries both townhomes and the luxury single-detached homes series, The Classiques. A unique concept offered in this community is that foreigners can buy either a townhouse or a single-detached unit under their name with the Condominium Certificate of Title. A first of its kind privilege in the Philippines, this concept offers expat families a variety of home choices to suit their lifestyle needs.

Summer celebration

Sunday dawned bright and clear, heralding an auspicious beginning for the new community. To celebrate the occasion, residents and guests gathered to formally open the Prominence II model townhouse.

The model home's housewarming was marked by simple yet meaningful rites. Starting with a confetti of butterflies released by guests and FLI officers to signify the hope of wishes coming true, guests were treated to a melange of New Age elements, creating a hospitable atmosphere that welcomed the residents' varying religious orientation.

To create a special environment in every room, different moods were established by the burning of aromatic oils or incense. This also served to clear the air and create a more relaxed and calming atmosphere. Guests were pleasantly greeted by the scents of citrus, lime, orange and lavender unleashed by Brentville assistant business unit head Rolly C. Acuesta and his daughter, together with project management head, engineer Mario V. Albania.

Completing the celebration was a shower of rose petals strewn from the second floor family hall by residents Hans Bruder and his wife. Signifying health and a happy home life, rose petals create a peaceful and harmonious environment, making it conducive to new beginnings within this new home.

Choice homes

Living in a Prominence II townhome is a pleasurable experience. Unlike the typical townhouse design, units are unique manor-like cluster homes with expansive areas for lawns and gardens. Floor plans are flexible for interior decorating needs, with ample space for comfortable family living.

A wide array of superb features and quality appointments enhance each home. Details such as artistically tiled porticos, elegant cathedral ceilings, imported fixtures and hardware, set the tone in creating a home of timeless appeal. Adding to the comfort level are finishing touches such as gourmet-styled kitchens, charming breakfast nooks, cozy family rooms and luxurious master suites with bath tubs, twin sinks and walk-in closets.

Playing upon the flexibility and versatility of Mediterranean architecture, a Prominence home provides a dynamic springboard for the residents' creative flair. Plan One's compact yet functional design focuses on starter families or bachelors/bachelorettes. The spacious elegance of Plan Three provides a relaxed and satisfying oasis of comfort. Its luxury and elegance defines the plan as a home for the sophisticated market, providing the perfect backdrop to the jet-setting lifestyle of its residents.

The Classiques

For the discriminating homeowner accustomed to refined living, owning a Classiques home is truly a rewarding experience.

Sleek, stylish and luxurious are keywords that are embodied by The Classiques. Artfully blending a myriad of textures, rich earth-tone colors, attractively tiled roofs and meticulous attention to detail, The Classiques creates a timeless look that complements the natural beauty of its surroundings.

The Classiques clearly defines luxury at its finest. To maintain exclusivity, only 12 homes will be offered for sale.

The Prominence advantage

As an addition to Brentville International, the Prominence II community features first-rate amenities for recreation and sport. These include a cabana with multipurpose social hall, kid-friendly pools and play areas, picnic and barbecue areas, underground facilities and manicured landscaping.

Aside from the exquisite environs, residents enjoy quick access to services, with the Brent International School just a short walk from their homes and shopping made easy at The Village Front neighborhood commercial center's diverse shops. Work and play is only 15 minutes away at the Filinvest Corporate City, the business and leisure hub of the south.

Best of all, Prominence II residents have privileged access to enjoy the first-class facilities of The Palms Country Club, a "resort-within-the-city" family club located in Filinvest Corporate City. The Palms offers a complete range of facilities for health, recreation, dining and business, making it a great place to spend time with the family as well as entertain friends and business colleagues.

The Palms is a private and exclusive membership club. Membership is exclusive to invited members and those referred by members. And for a limited time, Filinvest Land has arranged an exclusive agreement for Prominence II homeowners. Only bonafide residents and unit owners will have privileged access to enjoy the first-class facilities and participate in the activities of The Palms Country Club.

Where are you in the real estate life cycle segment?

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

IF you think that there is a specific house that would suit the needs of everyone, you may be wrong for different people have different needs and tastes. This is greatly affected by one's age, career and lifestyle. Many people think (some developers included) that there is only one stage in their lives in which they will ever buy a house. There are actually various stages in one's lifetime that you may choose to buy a house for yourself and your family. In each of these stages, your needs and wants are specifically different.

As you grow older and eventually have a family, your real estate needs will change over time and the home that you had when you were starting your career may no longer be as useful as it is today.

Homebuyers can be segmented into different stages with different priorities and needs. The real estate lifecycle stages are:

First-time homebuyers

The ideal first-time homebuyer is generally young and is either single or is just starting a family. The various types of first-time homebuyers include:

- **Young Single**—Young singles usually live with their parents and may not be an attractive market for real estate developers. However, the marrying age these days is usually higher as compared to 15 years ago and there are real estate options available for them. These options include rental properties or studio-type condominium units that are suited for single people.
- **Young Couple**—As the single person moves on in life and marries, a young couple may opt for a single-bedroom house or a starter home. Their needs might include a one-car garage and they may choose to live in small-size townhouses.
- **Young Family**—As the family grows, more rooms and bigger play spaces might be necessary for the growing children and the young family may consider a two- or three-bedroom home. As the household income increases, the affordability level of the young family becomes higher and it can afford a more expensive neighborhood.

Move-up homebuyers

As a person advances in his or her career, the need for luxury comes as income levels increase. This is the time when the mature family status is reached. In a mature family, teenage or young single children may require different private spaces inside the home. They may want a billiard or pool table and a music room where they can spend private time with their friends. Due to the very specific needs of these families, custom-built homes may be their best option. In a custom-built home, a designer and builder constructs a home to the specific requirements of the occupants.

In a mature family, this is usually the stage in which the income-earning potentials of the parents are at their peak. Parents in this age are mostly above 40 and the most expensive homes are usually bought or built at this age.

Empty nesters

When the children move out of the house, an empty-nester home would be smaller with smaller maintenance (and real property taxes) but with the same luxuries in which the homeowners were used to. Empty nesters may even move back to an apartment, condominium or townhouse. Rooms that are left by children who have moved out become storage spaces as the family shrinks. In fact, the house needed for a shrinking family will be smaller and as the parents grow older, they may not want to maintain such a big house. The size of the house that they need may be smaller but the need for the luxury of materials, finishing and furniture may still be there.

In the Philippine culture, some newly married children occupy a room or a portion of the house so it is also possible that space requirements increase at this stage.

Retirees

As one passes the age of retirement, housing requirements change. A two-story home may no longer be feasible for a couple in their 70s or 80s for they do not like climbing the stairs anymore (although I know a lot of senior citizens who still can easily climb up to the attic of their homes) and a master bedroom may have to be placed in the first floor.

There are also many other reasons senior homebuyers prefer a certain location—it can be a wide open green area where they can walk leisurely in the morning, a farm lot or they just want to be close to their grandchildren or to the church.

Other segments

Single parents can be represented in either of the different lifecycle segments. Since they are solely responsible for rearing their children, they have special needs such as a low-maintenance home. Safety is also very important for them and they want a safe neighborhood in which they can leave their children during the day.

Blended families are families in which both spouses have children from previous marriages and they also have specific housing needs. Both parents are usually financially stable and privacy in the home is very important. Family members are often busy and are very active.

A few single people or married couples with children tend to stay with their parents until the time comes for them to buy a home. At this stage, their requirements might be within the move-up category.

With the future in mind

We will all pass through the different stages in our life in which different real estate needs will have to be met. It is very difficult and practically impossible to build a home that will suit us throughout our lifespan. In building your home, it may be a good idea to take into account your future needs. This means that you may have to prepare a provision for expansion when you buy or build your first home or that you can simply work hard to be able to afford a nicer, more luxurious home at the peak of your career.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. He has been designing and building homes for the last 15 years. You may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

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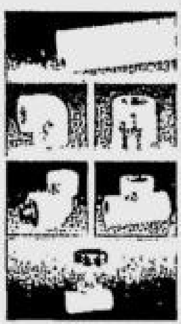

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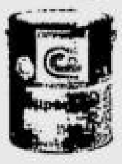

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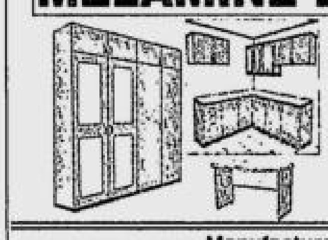

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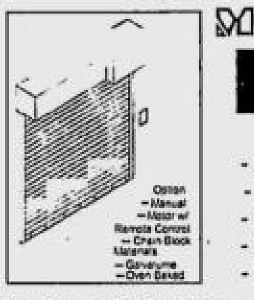

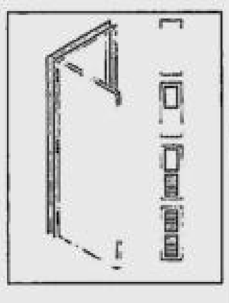

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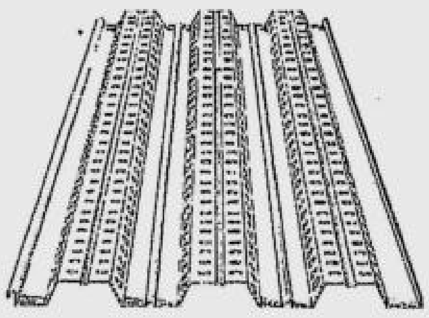

Figure 1

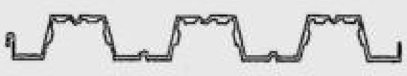

Figure 2

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Counsel for Philmetal Products, Inc.
Unit 421 SJB Condominium
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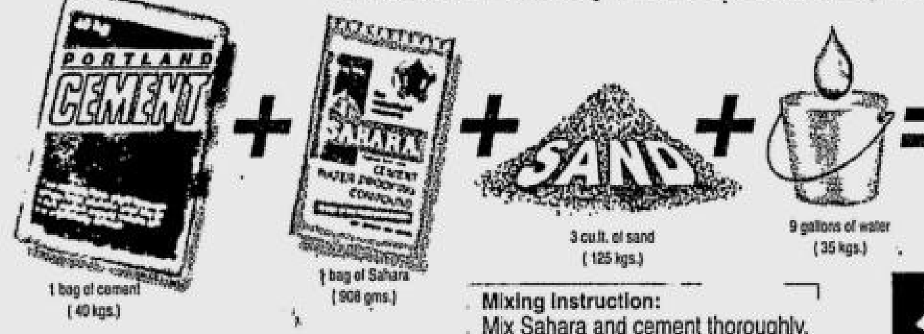
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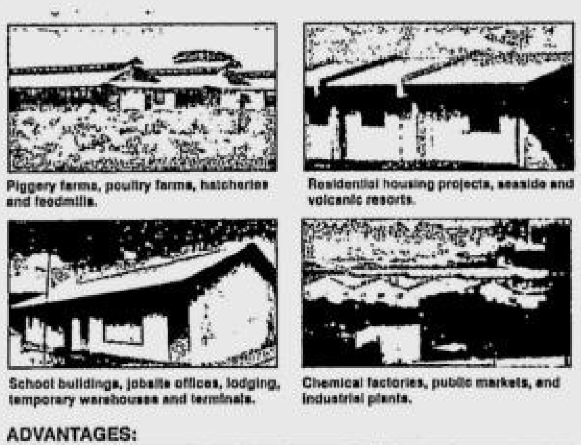
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BUSINESS

Asian stocks rally, Tokyo hits 6-mo highs

SINGAPORE—Japanese shares hit six-month peaks on Monday and most other Asian stock markets were a touch higher, riding up on a global rally sparked by hopes for a US economic recovery.

Better-than-expected US jobs data on Friday provided the latest reason to hope for better times in the world's largest economy, keeping the dollar firm.

But Japanese government bond investors saw no reason to move out of safe-haven assets, driving yields to fresh record lows.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average rose more than 0.5 percent to hit its highest level since December 11 before closing the morning session up 0.37 percent at 8,818.34.

The market's recent gains helped bolster investor confidence in Japan's fragile banking sector and fanned hopes for an economic recovery.

"There are things in the real economy that gain from the stock market's turnaround," said Atsushi Tajima, chief manager at Mitsubishi Securities' equities department.

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Japan's second-biggest banking group, was the most active issue by value, rising 2.45 percent. Bigger rival Mizuho Financial Group Inc was up 9.44 percent.

Investors elsewhere in Asia were more cautious, however, reflecting concern on Wall Street that the recent strong run in stocks may cool down this week as corporate America starts the season where it warns about earnings disappointments.

Hong Kong was down around 0.1 percent, Singapore was up 0.3 percent, Taiwan had gained 1.3 percent and South Korea was 0.8 percent firmer. Australia was closed for a holiday.

The uncertain tone reflected a mixed close on Wall Street on Friday, where the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.24 percent to 9,062.79 but the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 1.13 percent to 1,627.42.

That followed May jobs data that proved less dire than expected. The payrolls data showed a loss of 17,000 jobs, compared with forecasts in a Reuters poll for a loss of 39,000.

"People were saying that figures in the jobs data would be pretty bad but they weren't so bad after all," said a currency dealer at a major Japanese bank. "The dollar is firm and I expect it to remain firm for the rest of the day." The dollar was quoted at 118.50 yen compared with Friday's late New York level of 118.71 yen. The euro was trading at $1.1690, little changed from the U.S. close at $1.1700.

The euro fell against the yen on selling by Japanese exporters and as speculators dumped the single currency on a report that French retailer Carrefour was seeking a tie-up with struggling Japanese retailer Daiei.

The euro dropped as far as around 138.05 yen from the day's high of 139.05, compared with late New York's 138.88 yen. *Reuters*

Opec to ask rivals to join supply cut

DOHA—Opec this week is set to press independent exporters to back the cartel's next supply cut to prevent the resumption of Iraqi exports undercutting oil prices.

Opec president Abdullah al-Attiyah made clear on Sunday that major non-aligned producers Mexico, Russia and Norway would be called on to help the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries defend its $25 a barrel price target.

"Yes. We require their support ... I feel we have their support," Attiyah, also oil minister of Qatar, told reporters in Doha ahead of Wednesday's meeting.

With oil prices at the top end of the group's $22-$28 preferred price range, some ministers have said there appears no need for any immediate cut from its 25.4 million barrel a day output limit.

But the cartel is preparing the ground for possible restraints later this year by putting early pressure on its rivals to prevent them winning market share.

It may need to meet again to consider output policy before its next scheduled late-September conference.

Opec powers Saudi Arabia and Venezuela met with Mexico in Madrid on Friday to discuss the reemergence of Iraq on the world market and Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez travels to Norway on Monday.

Recovering from the US-led war, Baghdad is preparing to resume international sales in about a week's time. Shipments are expected to stay well below pre-war levels for several months.

With US crude now over $31 a barrel, alarm bells are ringing in Washington as summer gasoline demand puts upward pressure on import prices.

"We won't just cut for the sake of cutting," Attiyah said.

"I don't want to see my consumers angry, I believe the customer is always right but we have to be careful about the balance between demand and supply."

Opec has not needed to reduce production limits since late 2001, when it slashed supplies on condition that independent producers contribute. They resisted until prices slumped and then fell into line.

Russia, Mexico, Syria, Oman, Egypt and Angola among non-OPEC will be represented officially in Doha, for the first time at an extraordinary Opec meeting. *Reuters*

AN IRAQI man rides a donkey cart past a traffic jam of cars lined up for gas near a petrol station guarded by US troops in Baghdad. With Iraq's production still below its historic high points and dwindling US oil stocks, some market players hope the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will maintain quotas rather than cut them at their meeting tomorrow in Qatar. AFP

Japan workers feel economy is worsening

TOKYO—Japan's service-sector workers felt the economy worsened in May from the previous month as business activity slowed due to weak consumer confidence and the impact of SARS, a government survey showed on Monday.

The Cabinet Office's "economy watchers" survey of about 2,000 workers such as truck drivers and hairdressers yielded a diffusion index of 38.4 in May, falling from 38.7 in April and 41.3 in March.

A reading below 50 indicates the majority of respondents are either cautious or pessimistic about current business conditions.

As usual, the rest of the mostly anecdotal survey was a collection of worried comments. While fewer respondents commented on the Iraq war compared to the April survey, more were wary about the spread of the SARS virus and its impact on sales.

"We're turning away customers from Southeast Asia, so it's hurting sales," one hotel employee said.

Travel agents also complained about cancellations and a fall in reservations for overseas trips.

Policymakers look to the survey of service-sector workers, whom they call "economy watchers", for early signs of changes in economic sentiment. *Reuters*

Sony sees world recovery in '04

MADRID—Chair and CEO of electronics giant Sony Corp said on Sunday he saw the world economy recovering in 2004, and that Sony would bring about a joint venture before the end of this year.

Nobuyuki Idei, head of the world's largest consumer electronics maker, said in a newspaper interview that Japan, already in its fifth straight year of price declines, would snap out of deflation in 2004.

"America is in a difficult moment and Europe too ... There is a tendency towards a slowdown. Until when will it last? I think in 2004 everything will improve... For Japan it will be the end of a long period of deflation," Idei told Spanish daily El Pais.

Idei said alliances and joint ventures with telecoms operators such as Vodafone, T-Mobile or Japan's DoCoMO were a possibility in the future.

"There are two kinds of alliances, soft ones; collaborations to join forces, and hard ones; which are joint ventures which bring contributions of capital," Idei said.

Idei also said the divisions of Sony which would grow most were combination products such as televisions connected to the Internet.

"Growth is in new kinds of products which absorb the consumer," he said, adding that computer and mobile phone divisions also had growth potential. *Reuters*

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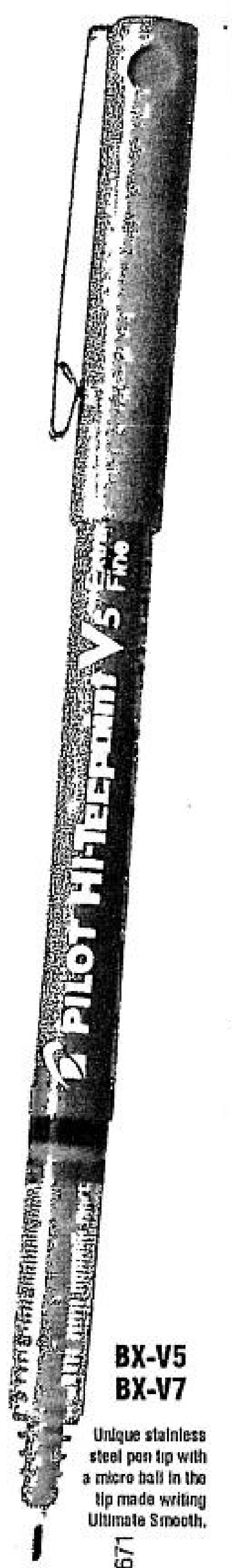

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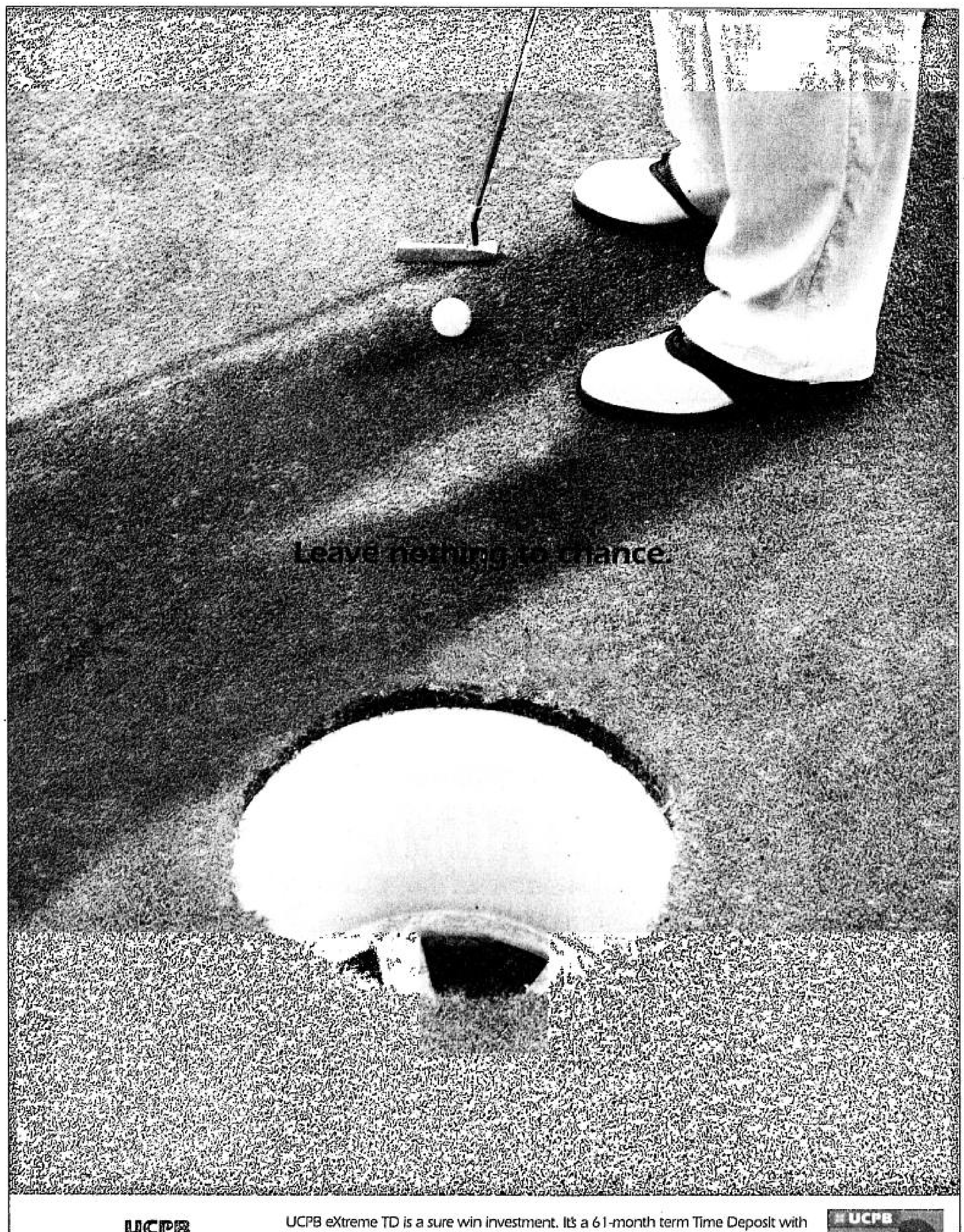

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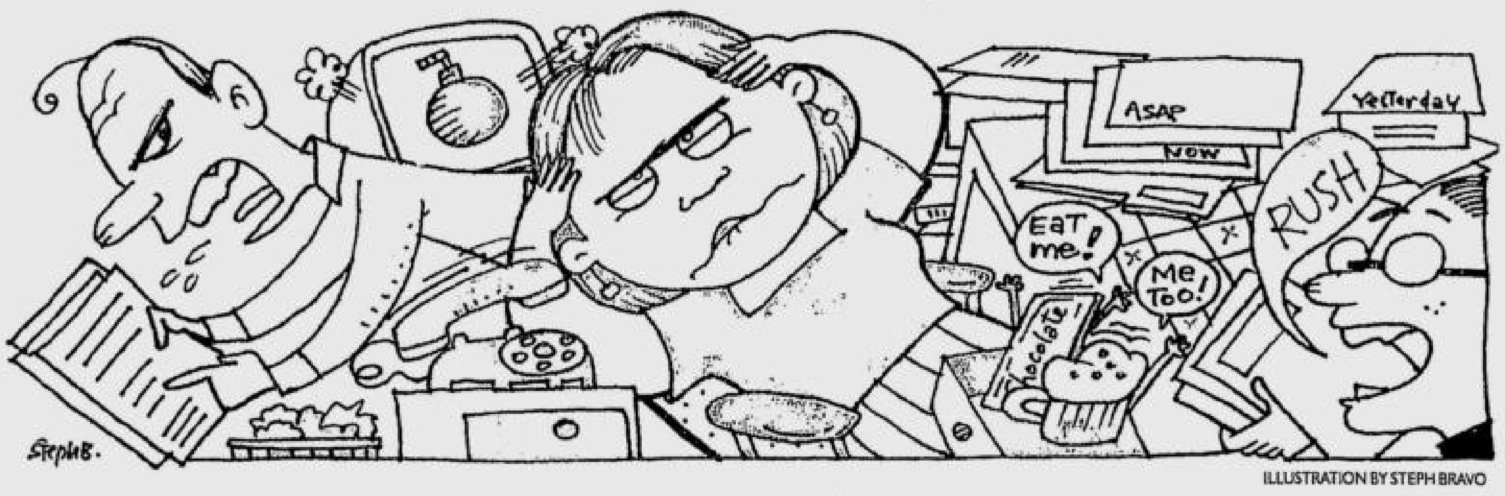


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

How to stop office stress from making you fat

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

DEPENDING on how you react to stress, it can make you gain or lose weight. Dr. Pamela Peeke, a stress and nutrition researcher, says people have three different eating responses to stress. Stress-resilient people respond by exercising or meditating. Stress over-eaters turn to food while stress under-eaters lose their appetite.

It also depends on the kind of stress you are undergoing. In general, acute stress like the death of a loved one or a major disaster like an earthquake will make people lose their appetite. Chronic stress, meaning a prolonged stressful situation like hating your job but not having the courage to leave it, usually increases the appetite particularly for sweet and fatty food.

To stop office stress from making you fat, you have to do three things: Be aware of how stress affects your health and weight, reduce unnecessary stress, and learn to deal in non-food ways with the stress you can't get rid of.

Being aware of the problem is always the first step in finding the solution. Once you understand that overeating is both a physiological and psychological response to stress, you will be better equipped with the right mental attitude to find the solutions appropriate for you.

We cannot completely eliminate stress from our lives. In fact, it will not be beneficial to do so. For example, deadlines are a necessary evil that motivate us to finish projects. Hardly anything will be accomplished without the threat of a deadline looming over us.

However, some of the stress in our life is unnecessary and of our own doing. We create our own stress by taking on too many commitments, procrastinating, not planning, not delegating, making mountains out of molehills, and worrying about things we can't control.

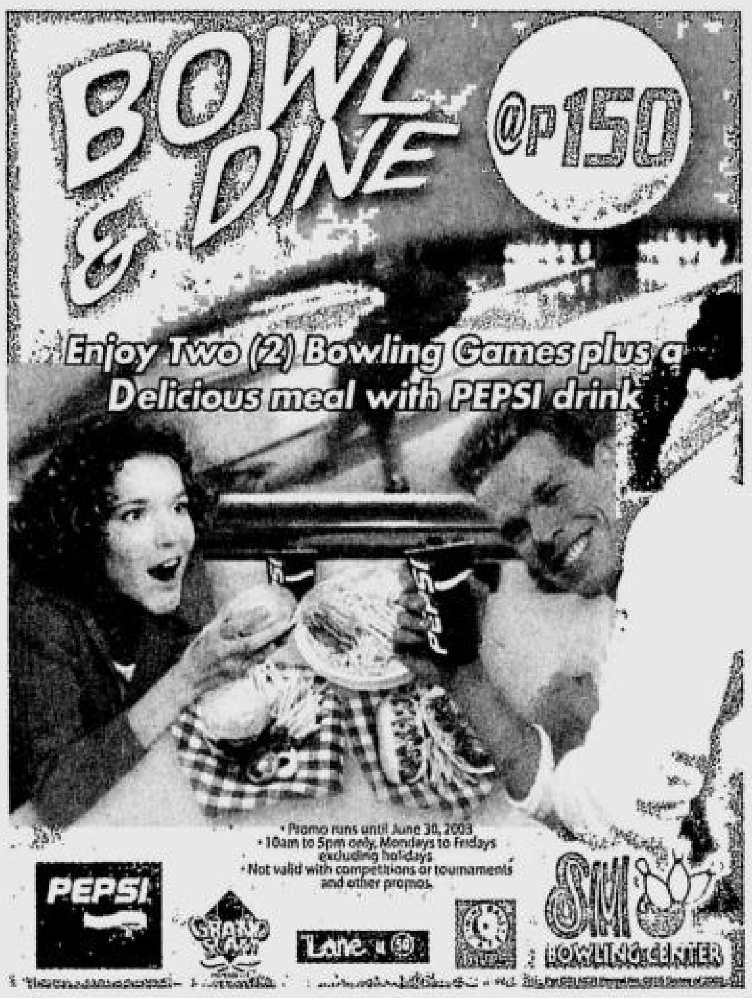
So identify the stress in your life and distinguish between the stress you cannot get rid of and the unnecessary stress that is within your power to change. Now, you are ready for some practical suggestions to deal with stressful overeating.

Exercise

Exercise attacks stress-related weight gain in two ways. First, it relieves anxiety and tension. The less stressed you feel, the less likely you are to

HOW TO/ C2

Chronic stress usually increases one's appetite, particularly for sweet and fatty food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What's in that glass of water?

Water is essential for life. And in a way, Filipinos are very lucky. According to Dr. Peter H. Gleick of the Pacific Institute for Environment (PIE), "The Philippines happens to have 323 cubic kilometers (km³) per year of total renewable freshwater supply," which means we are one of the three most bountiful countries in Southeast Asia as far as water is concerned.

But then again, of that amount, we can only withdraw a total of 29.5 percent yearly. This is the reason why only about 60 percent of our total population have access to clean, drinking water.

And to make matters worse, much of our water sources have been contaminated.

For example, there were confirmed reports that after the Americans left their bases in Clark and Subic, they also left a deadly trail of toxic materials in the water sources surrounding Pampanga, Tarlac, and Olongapo. A WHO Mission Report revealed heavy metals, oil and petroleum lubricants, aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, PCBs, lead, mercury, arsenic, asbestos in dangerous levels around the three areas.

In Baguio City, the city's water district abandoned a dam supplying water for domestic use due to pesticide contamination from gardening activities.

Now, if you think it's only one province, try multiplying that same pesticide problem by the number of provinces that rely heavily on agricultural chemicals.

And while you're at it, add the other major sources of water pollution in the country: industrial ponds, mining impoundments, municipal landfills, and the million gallons of wastewater that we discharge from our homes every year.

Can you imagine now what's in that glass of water you're holding?

Anyway, it's easy to brush aside these facts and say that the government is doing something, like applying chlorine in our water to remove all its impurities.

Okay, let's talk about that universal chlorine. Yes, our local water district applies chlorine into our water to control bacteria. Unfortunately, scientists recently found out that ingestion of chlorine in water is one of the root causes of cancer, hardening arteries, heart attacks, and strokes. Joseph M. Price, M.D., an attending physician at Saginaw General Hospital in Michigan, states, "Chlorine is the greatest crippler and killer of modern time."

Dr. Herbert Schwartz of Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey adds, "Putting chlorine in water is like starting a time bomb. Cancer, heart trouble, and physical aging conditions are attributable to chlorine-treated water supplies. It is making us grow old before our time by producing symptoms of aging, such as hardening of the arteries." Dr. Milem Bier, Research Biophysicist at Veterans Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, says that in his studies, "chlorine was given in very diluted solutions to dogs. The dogs' immunity reactions were so interrupted it caused a rejection of kidney transplants. The chlorine problem is very similar to that of air pollution. Chlorine is an oxidizing agent very much like the poisonous nitrogen oxides we have in the air."

Experts from around the world are now one in saying that water polluted by toxic substances "can and do cause miscarriage, cancer, skin disorders, kidney problems, respiratory and stomach problems, and still-births."

For his part, Director Rory Villaluna of the Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation (PCWS), says, "The reasons behind these statistics are obvious. Water resources nationwide are inadequately protected, conserved, and rehabilitated. "PCWS has proposed a code of conduct that encourages improvements and the safeguarding of water resources by users, especially communities.

Villaluna adds, "Reeducating the citizenry on the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of water sources is a must."

Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

Caregiving and the Gift of Love

3rd of 5 parts

Taking care of ageing parents or grandparents can, at first, be a daunting task. You become their source of comfort, relief, strength and assurance. Taking that extra mile to take care of them is a gift of love -- possibly the best way to show your love to them.

The following are a few more "gift" ideas that provide seniors enormous physical and emotional benefits that make "care giving" exceptionally rewarding.

A Massage Says a Lot

Ageing can cause anxiety and stress in most seniors. A healthy and caring touch like a massage effectively alleviates emotional and psychological effects of ageing that compromise the appetite and eating habits of your loved ones.

Simple, gentle strokes on the hands, feet and face can be very comforting. Ask your physician if there are any contraindications to giving Lolo or Lola a massage.

Physical Benefits

- Enhances tissue elasticity and flexibility
- Increases range of motion in joints
- Relaxes tight muscles
- Relieves muscle aches and stiffness
- Relieves cramps and muscle spasms
- Improves circulation of blood
- Improves immune system functioning
- Improves energy flow
- Improves posture
- Reduces tension headaches
- Promotes well nourished, healthy skin

Psychological Benefits

- Enhances general relaxation
- Reduces anxiety and mental stress
- Improves sleep
- Increases feelings of well-being
- Calms a bad temper
- Improves concentration
- Enhances self-image

Music, Maestro!

Music plays a significant role in improving the general well being of Papa or Mama. Set aside time for them to listen to classical music or to their favorite old classic tunes. Research results have showed that music reduces stress and anxiety, even depression. Remember that an improved emotional state can have positive effects on their attitude towards eating.

The Chef in You

- Add extracts and spices to food to make its smell and taste stronger.
- Prepare food of varying textures, colors and temperatures.
- Make sure food is rich in calories if the objective is to achieve ideal weight.
- Eat out once a week. A change in venue helps revive appetite.
- Load familiar dishes with calories by creating "concentrated" versions.

Consult a registered dietician about these alternative preparations

Your gift of love can mean taking that extra mile. And it's just a way of showing Lolo and Lola your love for them.

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Mars and Venus dietary needs

EXCERPTS from John Gray's latest bestseller, "The Mars & Venus Diet & Exercise Solution," are reprinted in this month's issue of Healthy Options News Digest, the newsletter of the popular health and fitness store.

The book's main point is that gender differences are also the result of hormonal differences brought on by men and women's different health and fitness habits. Consider the following issues:

- The same diet plan may cause a woman to gain weight, while a man may lose weight;
- A woman's diet can contribute more significantly to her feelings of fulfillment than the behavior of her partner;
- More men have the symptoms of low dopamine while more women have the symptoms of low serotonin;
- Certain food combinations will put a man to sleep but put a woman in the mood or vice versa; and
- Women require more cuddling and affection and men require more sex to experience healthy brain chemistry.

Brain chemicals

Dopamine is a chemical in the brain that gives us energy and motivation. Serotonin is another brain chemical that relaxes us and helps us to remember everything is going to be all right. These important brain chemicals are produced from specific amino acids contained in the proteins we eat.

By directly changing the brain chemistry with The Mars and Venus and Exercise Solution, men and women can relax and enjoy their relationship more.

Dopamine is from Mars

Low levels of dopamine create a health crisis for men. The following are some symptoms of low dopamine syndrome:

Low energy at home. With low dopamine levels, a man has lots of energy and passion at work, but when he comes home, he is tired and experiences lower levels of energy and motivation. Yet if a call comes from the office, he is suddenly animated and fully alive. The new and different challenges of his work stimulate dopamine, but the comfortable routine at home does not.

Declining interest and passion. In the beginning of a relationship, a man has plenty of energy, interest, and passion for his partner, but they decline gradually. In a restaurant, you can tell when a man is on a first date; he is giving his full attention while making consistent eye contact with the woman across the table. You can easily tell a married man with his wife. He is usually not making eye contact, he is easily distracted, and the conversation is not as animated. Eye contact is an indication of dopamine levels. If dopamine levels are normal, a man will effortlessly maintain eye contact.

Too solution-oriented. A man commonly listens to a woman talk about a problem and then wants her to have a solution right away. He becomes impatient and begins offering solutions. Without enough dopamine, he even forgets to listen and feels a strong urge to interrupt and give a solution.

Emotional unavailability. When dopamine levels are low, at the end of his workday a man goes to his cave but is too tired to come out. As soon as he gets home, he is in no shape to interact. He needs time to be on his own without feeling the pressure to be there for someone else.

Serotonin is from Venus

Low levels of serotonin create a health crisis for women. Some symptoms of serotonin deficiency syndrome:

Temporary amnesia. Women are more dependent on regular food intake to keep blood sugar up and sustain the production of serotonin. This regular need for food becomes even more important when a woman doesn't start her day with a lot of serotonin production. When blood sugar drops, a woman experiences temporary amnesia.

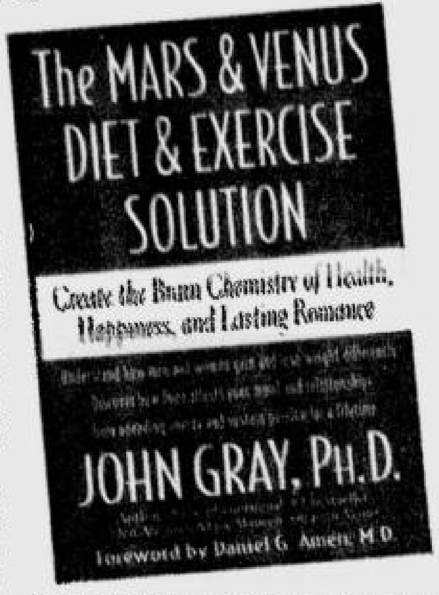
Sudden mood changes. A woman's mood can change very quickly. One minute she is appreciating and enjoying a man, and the next she is emotionally upset. Sugar feeds the brain. When the blood sugar levels drop, the brain's production of serotonin stops, and a woman's mood sinks.

Looking for love in all the wrong places. Giving of oneself in a relationship is the one behavior that most dramatically stimulates the production of serotonin. When serotonin levels are healthy, a woman will feel an urge to give to someone who has the potential to give back or to someone who has already given her support. This healthy giving response is based on reciprocity. She gives, but she also receives back.

Charitable giving provides the highest fulfillment. On a biochemical level, this kind of unconditional giving without expecting a return produces a rush of the hormone oxytocin, and this in turn stimulates more serotonin.

When a woman gives too much, she will inevitably begin to expect, demand, or require more in return. When she doesn't get back what she is giving, she will begin to feel resentment. This resentment may even become chronic, particularly when her brain is not producing enough serotonin.

Healthy Options stores are located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rustan's Supermarket-Makati; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Ayala Center, Cebu; SM City, North EDSA; SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Makati; SM Megamall B-Edsa; SM Pampanga and now in SM Bicutan.

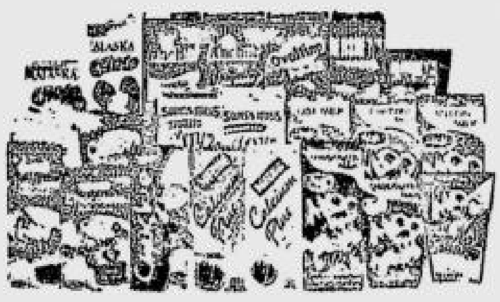

The MARS & VENUS DIET & EXERCISE SOLUTION
Create the Brain Chemistry of Health, Happiness, and Lasting Romance
JOHN GRAY, PH.D.
Foreword by Daniel G. Amen, M.D.

Antioxidant helps energize the heart

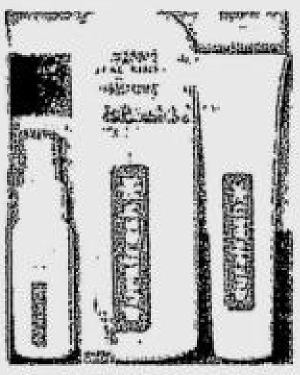
WEEKLY DOSAGE

ADDLIFE
CoQ10

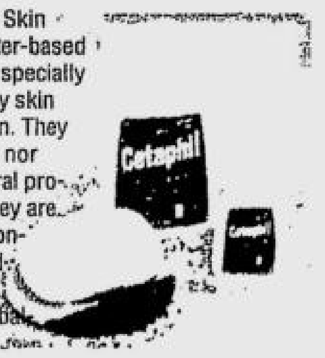
PASCUAL Laboratories, Inc. introduces AddLife CoQ10. Each capsule contains 30mg of Coenzyme Q10, an antioxidant used as a supplement for heart disease patients. AddLife is available in all Mercury Drug outlets and leading drugstores nationwide.



TETRA Pak locks in all of milk's goodness for months without refrigeration, until the package is finally opened. Flavored milk in tetra pak cartons include Nestle Chuckie Chocolate Drink, Selecta Moo Milk, Hershey's Chocolate Milk, Alaska Choco, Anchor Mocha Milk and Zest-O Choc-o.



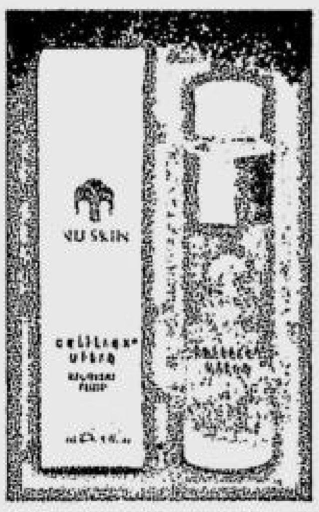
ZINNELLE International manufactures Durafresh alcohol-free toothpaste, gel, mouthwash and oral spray. Call 533-4207; 687-7702/7703.



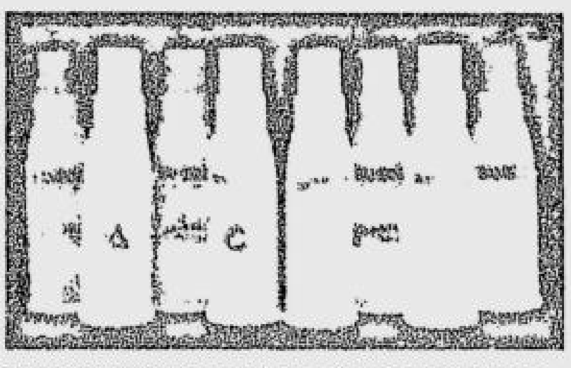
CETAPHIL Gentle Skin Cleansers are water-based products that are specially formulated for any skin type and condition. They won't irritate skin nor strip it of its natural protective barrier. They are fragrance-free, non-comedogenic and won't disturb the skin's natural pH balance.

RAUCH
happyday

HAPPY Day Multivitaminsaft by Rauch is a mix of apple, banana, mango and guava fortified with Vitamins A, B-complex, C, E, biotin, calcium, pantothenic acid and niacin. This refreshing juice is available in supermarkets.

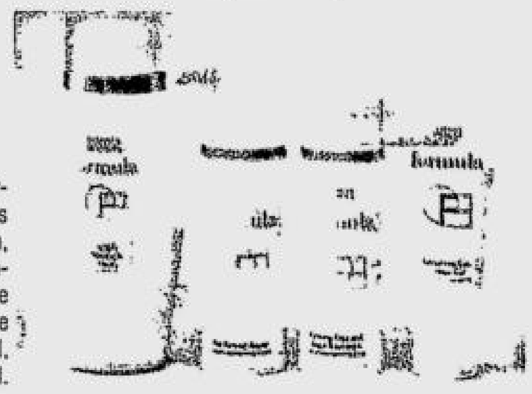


NU SKIN introduces Celltrex Ultra Recovery Fluid to bring the tissue-nurturing benefits of hydroxytyrosol to daily skin care. Call 689-0333.



THE ROGEMSON Company, Inc. offers Bambini Cologne in nine variants: Innocence, Giggles, Blush and Sixteen from the Attitudes line and the Fruitshakes range that includes Melon Marvel, Pineppale Pop, Raspberry Rave, Dewberry Delight and Grapefruit Giddy.

MARKS & SPENCER offers Face Formula, which combines moisturizers and treatments to cleanse the skin, boosts skin radiance and fights wrinkles. It comes in Formula Daily Care and Formula Special Care. Available in Glorietta 4, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and SM Megamall.



How to stop office stress from making you fat

From page C1

overeat. Second, if you do overeat, exercise will help in damage control by burning off some of the calories.

There are several theories why exercise is, as Peeke calls it, the ultimate stress neutralizer. It gives people a sense of mastery or control that is empowering. Exercise provides a distraction or diversion from anxiety-provoking thoughts. It is a form of meditation that relieves depression and anxiety. It enhances a person's ability to adapt and cope with the environment. Exercise may improve mood through biochemical processes by quickly getting rid of stress-related hormones. Whatever the reason may be, exercise is an important weapon in fighting stress and the weight gain associated with it.

If you can carve out time to exercise before or after work, it will be one of the best investments you can make for your health and weight. If this is impossible, you can still exercise by doing 10-15-minute sessions throughout the day. The goal is to accumulate 30-60 minutes every day.

You can walk briskly, climb stairs, and do muscle toning or stretching exercises (keep dumbbells, ankle weights, or rubber bands underneath your desk at work). This method can be just as effective at keeping you in shape as going to the gym. However, to be successful, you have to keep track of how much exercise you are actually doing. Keep a logbook and document how much exercise time you accumulate daily.

A pedometer, a small device that you attach to your waistband or belt, is an easy way to count how many steps you have walked that day. Aim for 10-15,000 steps. Pedometers are available at local sports stores.

Do not skip meals

Many people set themselves up for weight gain by not eating properly. Skipping meals and dieting by eating miniscule amounts are self-defeating because the body perceives these strategies as stressful and will actually produce more cortisol, the stress hormone that triggers an increase in appetite.

Avoid stress-induced eating during the "CortiZone"

Peeke calls the hours between 3 p.m. and midnight the "CortiZone" because this is when people tend to overeat the most because of stress. To avoid this trap, she offers several strategies from her book, "Fight Fat After Forty."

- At each of your three main meals, eat a combination of healthy carbohydrates, protein and fat. Healthy carbs are vegetables, fruits, legumes and whole grains (whole wheat bread, brown rice). Unhealthy sources are refined carbohydrates made of white flour and sugar. Choose lean animal protein sources and/or vegetable protein like tofu, nuts and seeds. Healthy fat comes from vegetable oil, nuts, seeds and fatty fish.
- If you eat breakfast before 8 a.m. and won't be eating lunch until 12 or 1 p.m., have a mid-morning snack made primarily of protein (yogurt, cottage cheese, tuna). You can also have a piece of fruit with it.
- Eat a mid-afternoon snack three hours after lunch to prevent a dip in blood sugar levels. Go for a combination of protein, carbohydrates and some fat. An example is a piece of whole-wheat toast with peanut butter.
- Avoid snacks made completely of refined carbohydrates like white bread, cookies, bagels and muffins because these kinds of food can make you hungrier and craving for more carbohydrates two hours later.
- Eat the majority of your total calories (at least 65 percent) before 5 p.m. Many people, especially women, tend to "diet" in the morning and then consume most of their calories in the hours of the CortiZone. Studies show that people who skip breakfast tend to overeat later on in the day and into the night.
- Eat dinner before 8 p.m. and at least two hours before sleeping.

Low calorie munching

Some people cope with stress with "oral" behavior like chewing, smoking and biting nails. If you are a chewer, raw vegetables are your best bet. They keep your mouth busy without racking up calories. They are crunchy, high in fiber and water, and are loaded with nutrients. Good choices to bring to the office are cucumbers, carrots, *singkamas*, celery, green or yellow bell peppers, sweet white onions, cauliflower, broccoli, etc. Another good alternative is pumpkin or watermelon seeds. You don't eat much because you spend a lot of time cracking the seeds. Make sure to get the unsalted variety because too much salt will just make you retain water and feel bloated.

Dried or fresh fruits are healthy but are not good for mindless chewing since their high sugar content can quickly pile on the calories.

You might also want to try sipping warm beverages like herbal tea or water with a little lemon. I find this strategy soothing and an additional benefit is that I can easily make sure I get enough fluid for my daily needs.

Replace 'comfort food' with 'comfort behavior'

If your mother or *yaya* constantly gave you food to stop you from crying or feeling sad, then you have been conditioned since childhood to eat your way out of stressful situations. You can change this behavioral response by consciously using non-food ways to comfort you. Before you automatically reach out for chips, sweets, and other fattening treats at the office, try taking a five-minute stretch break to relieve tension in your neck, shoulders and lower back.

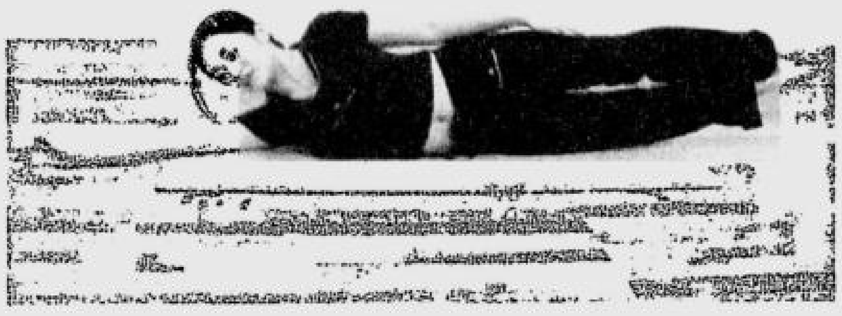
Take a mini-meditation break by sitting quietly in your chair with your eyes closed and focus on the sound and feel of your breath. You will be surprised at how effective these simple techniques are at taking your mind off your stress and problems. True, they only bring temporary relief but done on a regular basis, they are very helpful in releasing stress before it has a chance to build up. Besides, polishing off a bag of potato chips is just as temporary and only brings you feelings of guilt because you know they aren't good for your health or weight.

For questions and past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pilates side leg lift

Series 3



THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the obliques (muscles that criss-cross the waist) as well as the hips and inner thigh muscles.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your side with your legs together and in line with your hips and shoulders.
2. Rest your head on your straight bottom arm and place your other hand on top of your hip.
3. Exhale as you lift both your legs and upper body (slide your hand down your leg). Inhale as you lower down.

Performance tips:

1. Always contract your abdominal muscles first before you lift your torso and legs to protect your lower back.
2. Point your feet as you lift the legs. Flex your feet as you lower them down.
3. Avoid jerking. Move slowly with control as you lift and lower.
4. Keep your shoulder and hip from rolling forwards or backwards by contracting your abdominal muscles and visualizing a glass of water on your shoulder and hip.
5. Lengthen and elongate by stretching your upper body and legs in opposite directions.
6. Try to keep your neck and head parallel to the floor when lifting. Try to keep knees and ankles together.
7. This is an advanced exercise. Do not attempt this if you have a history of lower back problems. Ask your doctor first.

Repetitions:
Do five to 10 repetitions on each side.

Corporate executives tee off in Southwoods

THE MANILA Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite is one of the most prestigious golf clubs in the country designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus. The club, with its two challenging 18-hole championship courses, makes it the perfect venue for a golf tournament.

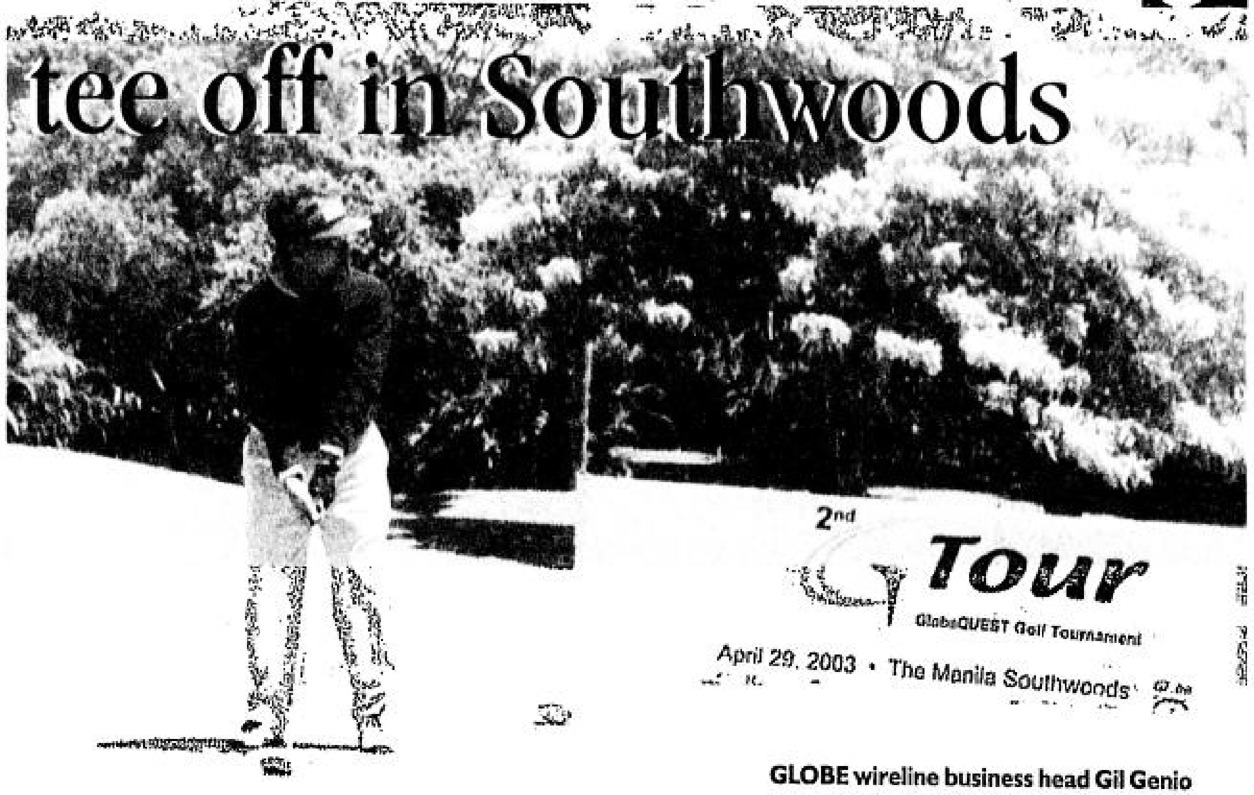
Top clients, corporate executives and potential clients teed off in Southwoods upon the invitation of GlobeQuest, the Internet and data arm of Globe Telecom, to join the day-long golf test dubbed the 2nd G-Tour. Bigger in terms of attendance and surprises, the 2nd G-Tour was the much-anticipated follow-up to the 1st G-Tour held by GlobeQuest in 2002.

GlobeQuest's guest players who attended the 2nd G-Tour had a chance to pit their skills with some of Globe executives like Globe AVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Froilan Castelo and Globe wireline voice head Ramon Pineda. Welcoming everyone to the tournament was Globe wireline business COO Gil Genio and Globe wireline data head Jesus Romero.

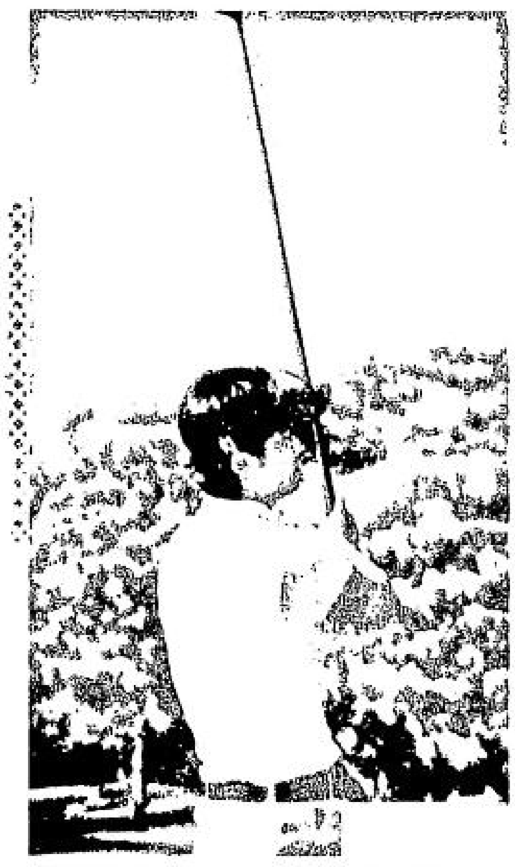
A special guest during the GlobeQuest 2nd G-Tour was top female pro golfer Heidi Chua, who matched drives with G-Tour players.

Apart from the tournament, the 2nd G-Tour had a fun-filled program with lots of surprises (Globe gave out the latest cell phones, PDAs, golf clubs, gift packs and other exciting prizes). Globe president and CEO Gerry Ablaza was also present to thank the golfers for making the 2nd G-Tour truly successful.

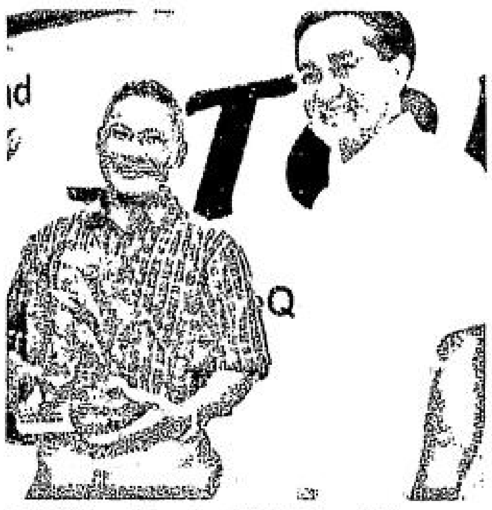
Emerging as the lowest gross champion in the Globe golf tourney was Eduardo Cuunjieng, chief executive officer of Edsamail. Intel marketing manager RJ Maclang was the lowest net champion. Class A champion was HSBC vice president for IT Gerone Jimenez, Class B champion was Bayantrade chief technology officer Dante Briones, Class C champion was E-Telecare IT manager Renato Derpo. For the ladies division, champion was Honda marketing services head Pam Adriano. Globe Telecom champion, a special category for Globe and Ayala Group players, was iAyala executive director Jack Madrid.


2nd
G Tour
GlobeQUEST Golf Tournament
April 29, 2003 • The Manila Southwoods

GLOBE wireline business head Gil Genio prepares for his drive at the 2nd G-Tour



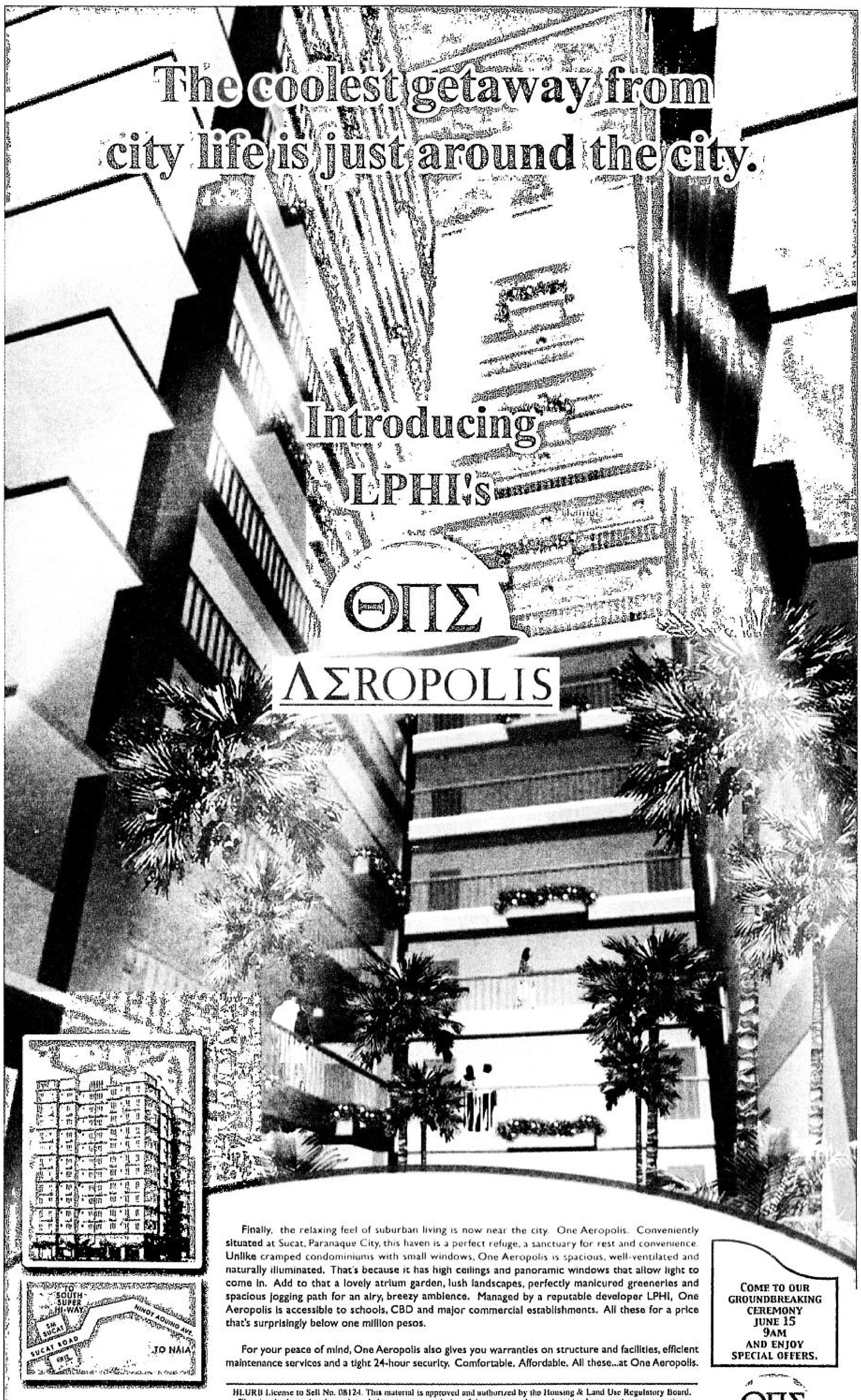
GUEST of honor and pro golfer Heidi Chua leads G-Tour tee-off.



GLOBE president and CEO Gerry Ablaza (right) awards the Class B champion, BayanTrade's Dante Briones.

READY and rarin' to golf: Globe wireline head Gil Genio and Globe legal services AVP Froi Castelo

LADY golfer Heidi Chua, GlobeQuest marketing services head Racquel Cagurangan and Globe corporate sales unit head Aries Sayson



The coolest getaway from city life is just around the city.

Introducing LPHI's

ΘΠΣ
ΛΣROPOLIS

Finally, the relaxing feel of suburban living is now near the city. One Aeropolis. Conveniently situated at Sucat, Paranaque City, this haven is a perfect refuge, a sanctuary for rest and convenience. Unlike cramped condominiums with small windows, One Aeropolis is spacious, well-ventilated and naturally illuminated. That's because it has high ceilings and panoramic windows that allow light to come in. Add to that a lovely atrium garden, lush landscapes, perfectly manicured greeneries and spacious jogging path for an airy, breezy ambience. Managed by a reputable developer LPHI, One Aeropolis is accessible to schools, CBD and major commercial establishments. All these for a price that's surprisingly below one million pesos.

For your peace of mind, One Aeropolis also gives you warranties on structure and facilities, efficient maintenance services and a tight 24-hour security. Comfortable. Affordable. All these...at One Aeropolis.

COME TO OUR
GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY
JUNE 15
9AM
AND ENJOY
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Our four letters make a home.
ALPHI
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or email us at mktg.lphi@ayalaland.com.ph

ΘΠΣ
ΛΣROPOLIS
Now the sky is within reach.

Old-fashioned way to trim your waistline

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IN RESPONSE to e-mail and personal requests from readers, I am, once more, sharing some of my tried-and-tested formulas. I offer no miracle cure, no instant remedies, no drastic preparations—just good, old-fashioned suggestions.

Here's how to trim your waistline, add more definition to your body and improve your general well-being.

Change your mind

Review the way you look at things. Just because you have become comfortable with your way of life doesn't mean there isn't any room for improvement. It's all in your head, really. Try to stop looking at vegetables and fruits with distaste, and exercise with less disdain or laziness. Think of fruits, vegetables and exercise as your friends.

Now look at animal fat (from pork and beef) as less friendly to your heart. Animal fat will not contribute to a healthy you. It can cause lifestyle diseases like diabetes, obesity, heart problems, cancer, hypertension, etc. So consider it your enemy. You may want to start having less red meat, more poultry and fish.

Make sugar a less constant companion. Remember that too much sugar is damaging to your health because it can interfere with proper digestion, weaken the immune system and wreak havoc on your skin's collagen (the result: wrinkles!).

Alcohol can be good for you, especially red wine, but physicians recommend no more than two glasses a day. Your body doesn't need more than this.

Just do it

Passion is a good thing. How badly do you want to look and feel better? The success of your wellness program is entirely dependent on your passion. If you set your heart on a goal, then your mind must make it happen. Simply do what you have to do. Bear in mind the following:

- Eat less of everything if you can't follow a strict diet. Whatever it is you eat, reduce your portions by 30 percent if you are overweight. If you are determined, go for a 50-percent reduction on all food items. This means, a lighter plate. Put more veggies and fruits on your plate and cut back on rice, bread, pasta, butter and dessert.
- Move your butt. Watching television all day will not do the trick. Do household chores like gardening, etc.
- Get into exercise mode. If you like certain things like biking, walking, swimming, etc., resume those activities. The more you move, the more energy you burn. And if you burn more than what you eat, congratulations. You're on your way to losing weight! This is a slow but sure way to get slimmer.

Be cheerful

In whatever you do, practice cheerfulness. This springs from a positive attitude toward life—people, situations, crises, troubles. Find the wisdom in your heart and say: "Whatever is happening to you at this moment is your present reality and you must deal with it not with panic, fear or violence but with calmness, control and peace."

My way

There are many diets to choose from, so many they can leave you confused. Here is mine:

Breakfast: 1 small bowl of high-fiber cereal; a big bowl of mixed fresh fruits like papaya, mango, banana, kiwi, pineapple with no honey or sugar added; one glass of non-fat high-calcium milk (like Nestlé)

Mid-morning snack: One low-fat granola bar

Lunch: Salad, pasta, fish or chicken (not fried), no dessert (if there's some, only 2 tablespoons of sweets)

Mid-afternoon snack: One tuna or sardine sandwich (low-fat mayo, please), one fresh fruit juice

Dinner: A serving of veggies like broccoli, cauliflower, *pechay*, etc., chicken/fish, steamed or garlic-fried rice (in olive or canola oil), one serving of sweet potato/bananas in molasses (easy on the syrup)

1 hour before bedtime: 5-7 pieces of fresh almonds/walnuts and 2 pieces of dates or 1 apple/pear/banana, 1 cup of mint/chamomile tea

Exercise plan: Gym work/resistance training—1 hour, 3 times a week; once a week, 1 hour session of yoga or Pilates or 30 minutes brisk walk, 2 times a week

Stress control plan: 15 minutes of meditation, twice a day; spa visit—1 hour aromatherapy massage, once a week

Affirmation: "I will be the best that I can be beginning today."

Instant waist-slimmer

Do not take any carbohydrate at dinner. No carbonated drinks, dessert or fatty food. The following morning, take one cup of warm water with ¼ tsp of apple cider vinegar. Your tummy will start getting smaller the next day and flatter as the days pass.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Slimming ritual

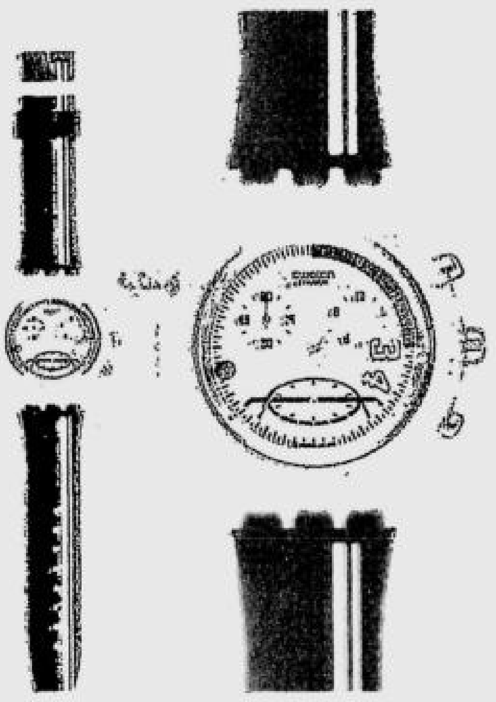
Get a skirt/dress or pants that have become too small for you. If the garment is in your ideal size, try it on every night before sleeping. As you struggle to get into the dress or pants, look at yourself in the mirror, especially your bulges, and declare: "This will fit me one day soon!" Make this your affirmation.

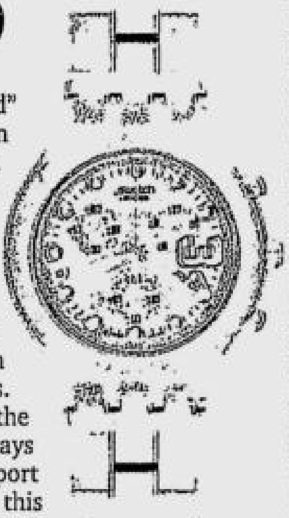
Love and light!

Nestlé Nutren, a new food supplement, presents "Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit" with Jaime Licauco and Cory Quirino. This is a whole day workshop on achieving balance in your life and is open to clubs, associations and corporations. Registration fee is P400 per person. Call 898-0001 local 7183 (Hazel), 6713 (Jean).

Shaq scores two

AFTER LAUNCHING the Swatch Skin Chrono watches in partnership with the world's most innovative and successful watchmaker, NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal has inspired two new watch designs, the Shaq "34 Gold" and the Shaq "34" for the Diaphane Swatch Irony line.





Shaq "34 Gold" raises the fashion game up a notch with its striking solid gold looks, golden chain link bracelet engraved with Shaq 34 and Swatch, and gold-colored dial with faux diamond stones.

Shaq "34", on the other hand, pays homage to the sport that has made this Swatch ProTeam member known all around the world. Its navy-blue rubber strap with two yellow stripes along the right edge almost instantly makes you think of basketball. And its frosted Diaphane plastic case with "Shaq 34" appearing on a silver-colored aluminum bezel and silver dial with white, blue and yellow basketball court interpretation is evidence enough that, indeed, this Swatch is signature Shaq.

Both Swatch Shaq watches have been designed to take the fun of basketball and the world's biggest player out of the courts and onto your wrists.

Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc. Swatch is available at all Gift Gate, Swatch stores and kiosks nationwide.

LA LAKERS star Shaquille O'Neal wears his Swatch below his sleeve

New sports brand stores

FOUR new Adidas brand stores have opened in the first quarter of the year.

The four stores are located at the second floor of Mindoro Citimall in Zamboanga City, second floor of Nepo Mall in Angeles City, second floor of Magic Mall in Urdaneta City and the ground floor of Gaisano City Bacolod.

"It has long been our aspiration to eventually reach out to the provinces, and definitely, with the inauguration of our new brand stores, we are looking forward to opening more in other parts of the country," says Angelica Suiza, marketing director of Adidas Philippines.

The stores offer Adidas' extensive collection of sports, fashion, leisure wear, footwear and accessories. Available are the latest colorful designs of the Colours line, A3, Climacool, and Forever Sport casuals, as well as new designs in sports shoes and accessories.

NATIONAL Basketball Association marketing manager for the Philippines Carlo Singson opens the NBA Madness with (from left) Vitto Lazatin, NBA Jam host; Peter Chan Liong, Solar Sports Channel executive vice president; Chet de Guia, vice president and general manager of Pediatrica, makers of Growee; Carmina Velayo, Globe GenTxt brand manager; and Seppie Cristobal, NBA Jam host.

Interactive hoop action in malls

FATHER-AND-SON. Miko and Mickey Robat take turns shooting.

"NBA Madness", a traveling NBA basketball grassroots tour of the Philippines, is visiting six shopping malls in Manila, Cavite and Pampanga until July 6.

The tour is designed to encourage basketball players of all ages and abilities to participate in a variety of basketball skills challenges.

It has seven separate competitive events highlighted by the NBA Slam Dunk Contest. Participants can win NBA merchandise, prepaid cards from Globe and basketball camp certificates from Growee.

Homegrown "NBA experts" have a chance to showcase their annotation of NBA action in the NBA Play by Play AV Booth.

The month-long NBA Madness basketball extravanganza ends July 6 at SM Megamall.

The schedule of the NBA Madness in the Philippines follows: June 13-15, SM City Bacoor; June 20-22, SM City Pampanga; June 27-29, SM City Fairview; and July 4-6, SM Megamall.

Open season for US college sportswear

THE US College Collection is a line of casual apparel, footwear and accessories for active and healthy young people.

The collection features the logos of 10 big US conference schools known for their excellent sports programs and training facilities.

Some of these schools have produced world-renowned NBA stars, such as Michael Jordan and Vince Carter (from the University of North Carolina), Magic Johnson and Chris Weber (from Michigan University), and Grant Hill (from Duke University).

Following in their footsteps are Andrew Cruz and Chris Quimpo, campus basketball figures and members of the 2003 UAAP champion team Ateneo Blue Eagles, who are endorsing the US College Collection brand.

US College Collection shirts and tops are light and soft jerseys made from 100-percent pre-shrunk cotton. Cruz and Quimpo find the US College Collection shirts ideal for workouts, basketball games, going to malls and school, where both are pursuing their master's degrees, Cruz in communications and Quimpo in computer studies.

The US College Collection also includes caps, backpacks and socks.

It is available in leading sports and footwear outlets in Metro Manila and in specialty boutiques nationwide.

EAGLES Andrew Cruz and...

CHRIS Quimpo

CRUZ and Quimpo with the Ateneo Blue Eaglets

LIFESTYLE

THE GROUP behind Organic Haven relies on their own tried-and-tested suppliers for their supplies.

LIMITED supplies make organic produce a little more expensive.

Absolutely, positively organic

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Joan Bondoc

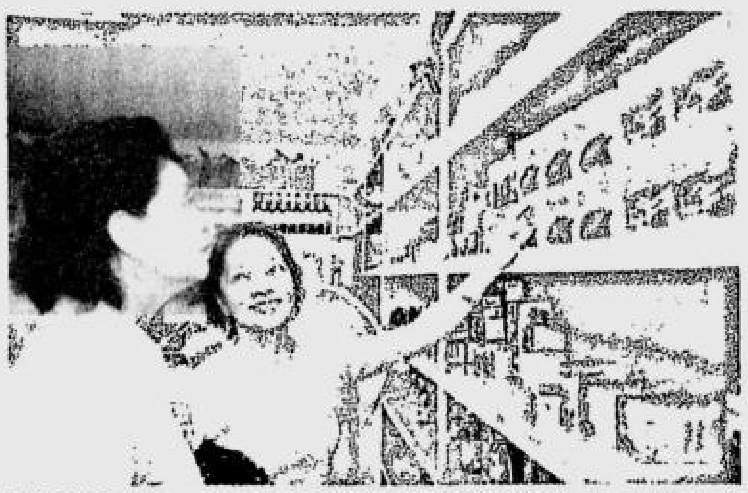
FOR THE GROWING number of Metro Manila's health-food converts, eating right is a constant test of their commitment.

While hamburger joints, dim-sum houses and doughnut kiosks have become as common as (even more, in some places) *sari-sari* stores, they often have to spend their weekends going from one end of the metropolis to the other chasing after the few organic food producers who participate in *tiangges*. And if they are not early or quick enough, they are likely to end up empty-handed as the producers usually carry very limited supplies.

Well, a group of friends decided it was not right for trade in organic produce to be no more than a weekend thing—for both consumers and suppliers. They pooled their resources together and came up with G & D Organic Haven in Quezon City, a place dedicated to selling chemical-free farm produce and other products derived only from natural, organic sources. Its motto is: "We are green and determined (hence the G & D) to keep you healthy."

At present, the one-door venture looks more like a neighborhood *sari-sari* store with its mish-mash of products from vegetables to cough medication, but Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, a member of the group together with husband Martin, says they hope to eventually make it a one-stop shop for people who have opted for a more healthful alternative lifestyle.

Organic Haven is green and determined to keep its customers healthy



THEATER personality C.B. Garrucho and writer Marra Lanot discuss the merits of some of Organic Haven's products.

HERB plants are occasionally sold at the store.

An advocacy

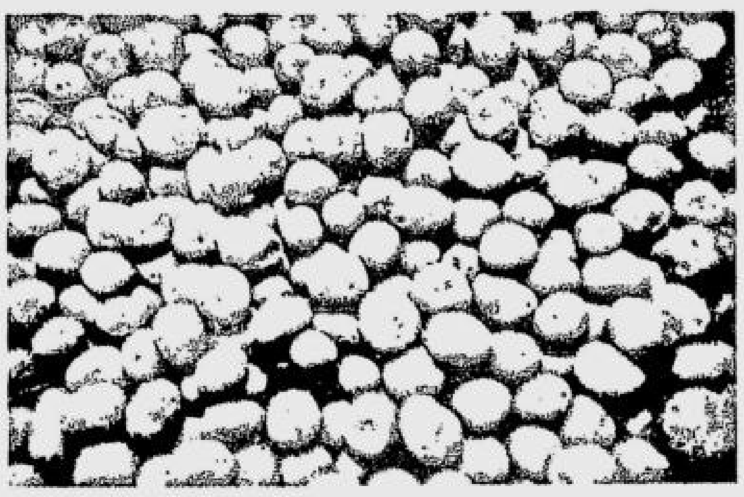
Marfil says Organic Haven is more than just an enterprise. "It is an advocacy not only among consumers but also farmers and manufacturers. [We want entrepreneurs] to go into this [production of chemical-free goods] sort of thing," she explains.

A recurring cough, which no amount of antibiotic could cure, turned Marfil's life around and made her a health-food convert. After consulting several doctors, one finally diagnosed the cough as allergy to house dust and prescribed an herbal preparation that produced the relief she had long been seeking. "When the natural medication worked, it changed my whole perspective and I became open to other organic product ideas," she says.

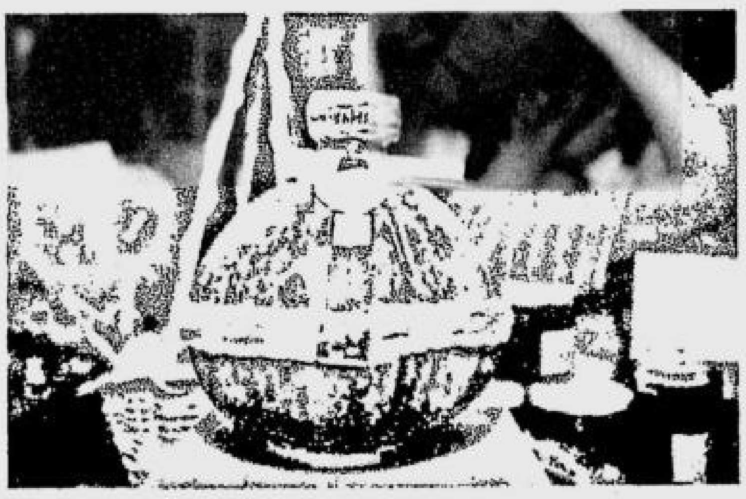
Tony Lacaba, who has the task of sourcing the store's products, says most of their suppliers are people they have known since they opted to go organic. Lacaba has been a health-food enthusiast the longest among the group. With wife Nanette Matilac, he has been chasing after organic producers since the '80s, shifting to unpolished rice, then muscovado and chemical-free vegetables. (Aside from the Marfils and Lacabas, the other members of the Organic Haven group are Jun Bandayrel and wife Maureen Pagaduan, Milabel Cristobal Amar, Roberto Ador and Quintin Cordero.)

Without a government agency to verify claims of organic production, Lacaba tapped his own sources, people whose credibility he has established over the years of dealing with them, as the store's initial suppliers. Referrals from these people were tapped next.

"EARLY birds," who attended Organic Haven's opening, check out the dried herbs and native eggs.



POTATOES may be smaller than the ones sold in supermarkets but they are chemical-free.



COCONUT vodka, contained in this attractive package, is supposed to be completely different from *lambanog* as it is made of coconut water.

Motley group

The result is a motley group of farmers, non-government organizations, hobbyists, cooperatives, spiritual and religious associations. Although stories on Organic Haven's opening have led people to come knocking at its door offering their goods, Lacaba also travels—around Luzon so far—looking for new suppliers to make sure the store doesn't run out of merchandise.

Supply is a critical issue for this venture. "The supply of organic food is limited. [Farmers] use chemicals to produce more and nicer products. Without the use of chemicals, crops grow more slowly and production is limited," Lacaba points out. That's the major reason why organic produce is more expensive.

In a seeming demonstration of superior folk wisdom, Lacaba notes, "Farmers will plant (for commercial purposes) using chemicals, but they grow organic crops for their own use."

Natural propagation will never produce yields as bountiful as those from chemically treated crops, so Marfil expects prices of organic produce to remain slightly higher.

Price is not the only thing different between organic and chemically treated produce. People who have "bought" the idea from marketing geniuses that produce has to be big, plump and pretty to be good, are going to find Organic Haven's offerings not always nice-looking and possibly disappointing. Heads of cabbages can be no bigger than the size of a fist, potatoes look like decorative pebbles and root crops are revealed in their natural glory, warts and all, as Oliver Cromwell would say.

But then, as others would say, it's the "inner" beauty that counts more than outside appearances, and that is what organic produce has. It doesn't have the chemicals that all those pretty "faces" carry.

Discerning buyers know that, and Organic Haven is starting to get a steady stream of customers.

And they come not just for the vegetables, but for other products as well, like the internationally award-winning but locally unknown herbal laundry soap Victoria, internationally award-winning but also locally unknown herbal shampoo Lauat, insect repellent, cleansing liquid, herbal toothpaste, herbal "cigarettes" for people who want to quit smoking, herbal teas, non-coffee "coffee," mushroom-based tonic drinks, herbal beauty preparations, high-fiber bakery products, herbs, condiments, medicine, food supplements, organically grown poultry and fish products.

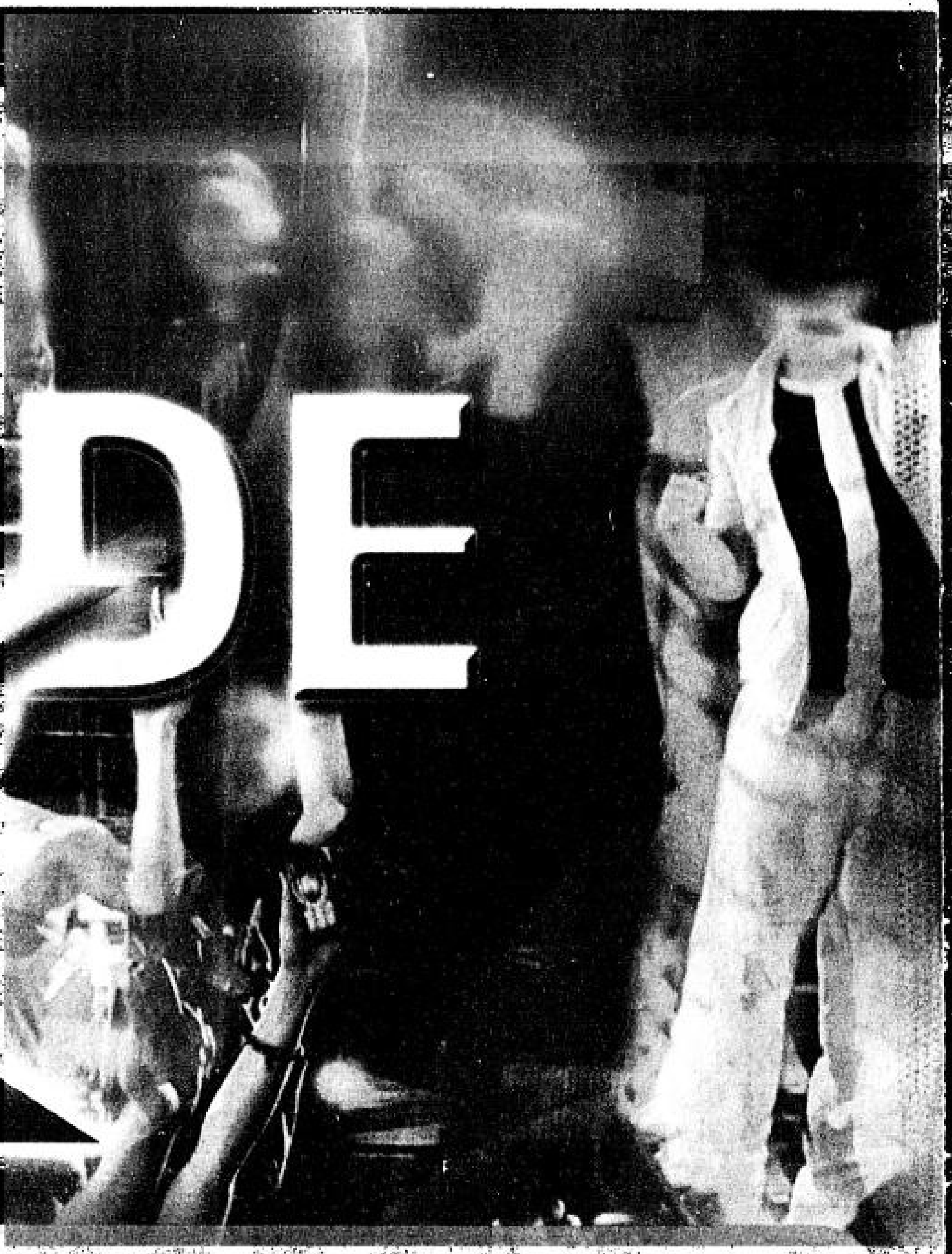
The store is averaging six to seven walk-in customers a day, including people diagnosed with cancer who are now into organic food to help battle the dreaded disease.

G & D Organic Haven is at 424-C Rasver Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City (between Tomas Morato Avenue and New York Street) with telefax no. 7247987. E-mail address is gnd@organic.haven.com

E-mail author at lbolido@hotmail.com

CONSUMERS will be surprised to know that several Philippine-made natural products have won awards in international competitions.

SMART
DECADE



This 3rd of June, SMART surpassed the 10 millionth subscriber mark.

This is a major milestone especially for the over 10 million subscribers on its network, who more than ever will be empowered with innovations and wireless coverage that will forever change their lives.

For choosing SMART to empower your life, we give you DECADE - a series of nationwide parties and events in celebration of the over 10 million subscribers milestone and SMART's 10th anniversary. It's our way of thanking you for allowing us to enhance the way you live. And we are privileged to enhance it further with cutting-edge innovations like these:

✓ **SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2**
The most powerful SIM card to date. This state-of-the-art SIM lets you store up to 500 phone numbers, up to 70 text messages and gives you instant access to exciting SMART services exclusive to SMART Buddy subscribers.

✓ **Buddy Load**
The breakthrough feature that allows you to stay connected with your SMART Buddy celfone for as low as P30.00.

✓ **Addict Mobile**
The only wireless service that gives you Multimedia content that fits your young and active lifestyle and lets you download it for as low as P5.00.

✓ **SMART Amazing Phone**
The first in Asia. It's the revolutionary Microsoft-powered celfone that enables you to surf the net, download images, MP3s, movies and more.

✓ **SMART zed**
The leading mobile portal that offers the widest range of the most entertaining and useful wireless applications and information.

✓ **SMART Money**
Unparalleled convenience. It's the only reloadable cash card that allows you to reload your SMART Buddy account, make purchases in MasterCard-affiliated establishments, and do over-the-air mobile commerce transactions.

✓ **SMART ACeS**
The only service that makes use of the combined GSM and Satellite technologies, providing the widest reach and connectivity at all times.

✓ **Widest Nationwide Coverage**
Having over 3,100 cell sites covering 100% of all the cities and major municipalities nationwide.

✓ **Most Number of International Roaming Partners**
With over 240 international roaming partners in over 100 destinations worldwide.

We hope to serve you for more decades to come with more life-enhancing innovations. Together, we will have an amazing future.

Club Pacha of Ibiza: The Dance Party
12.06.03
10 pm at the NBC Tent

Perks for SMART subscribers:
Free entrance and drinks for the first 100 subscribers; Xpress lane and VIP lounge.

Promo for non-SMART subscribers:
SIM swap to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 on the night of the event and score a free ticket. Promo is valid until 12 midnight.

Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez
2003 World Concert Tour, The Repeat

14.06.03, 8:30 pm at the Araneta Coliseum
28.06.03, 8:00 pm at the Freedom Ring Amphitheater, Clark Expo, Pampanga

Perks for SMART subscribers:
Just wait for SMART to call you. You could be one of the lucky winners to be given FREE tickets.

Promo for non-SMART subscribers:
- SIM swap to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at the SMART Tower, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt 1, Virra Mall, Binondo or Cubao Wireless Center from June 9 to 13, and automatically get a free ticket to the Araneta concert.
- SIM swap at the Robinsons Starmills, Angeles or SM Pampanga Wireless Center from June 22 to 27, and get a chance to win two (2) concert tickets for the Clark Expo, Pampanga concert.

REGIONAL EVENTS
Free entrance and drinks on
subscribers who enter the
Baguio: Gimbals, Locus, No
Davao: Octane and The Ven
Cebu: Ratsky, High Life, Yu

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ollowing bars from June 13 to 28
turne, Red Box and Cactus
e
u and Cue Cafe

uddy, SMART GOLD, SMART ACeS, Addict Mobile and Talk 'N Text subscribers

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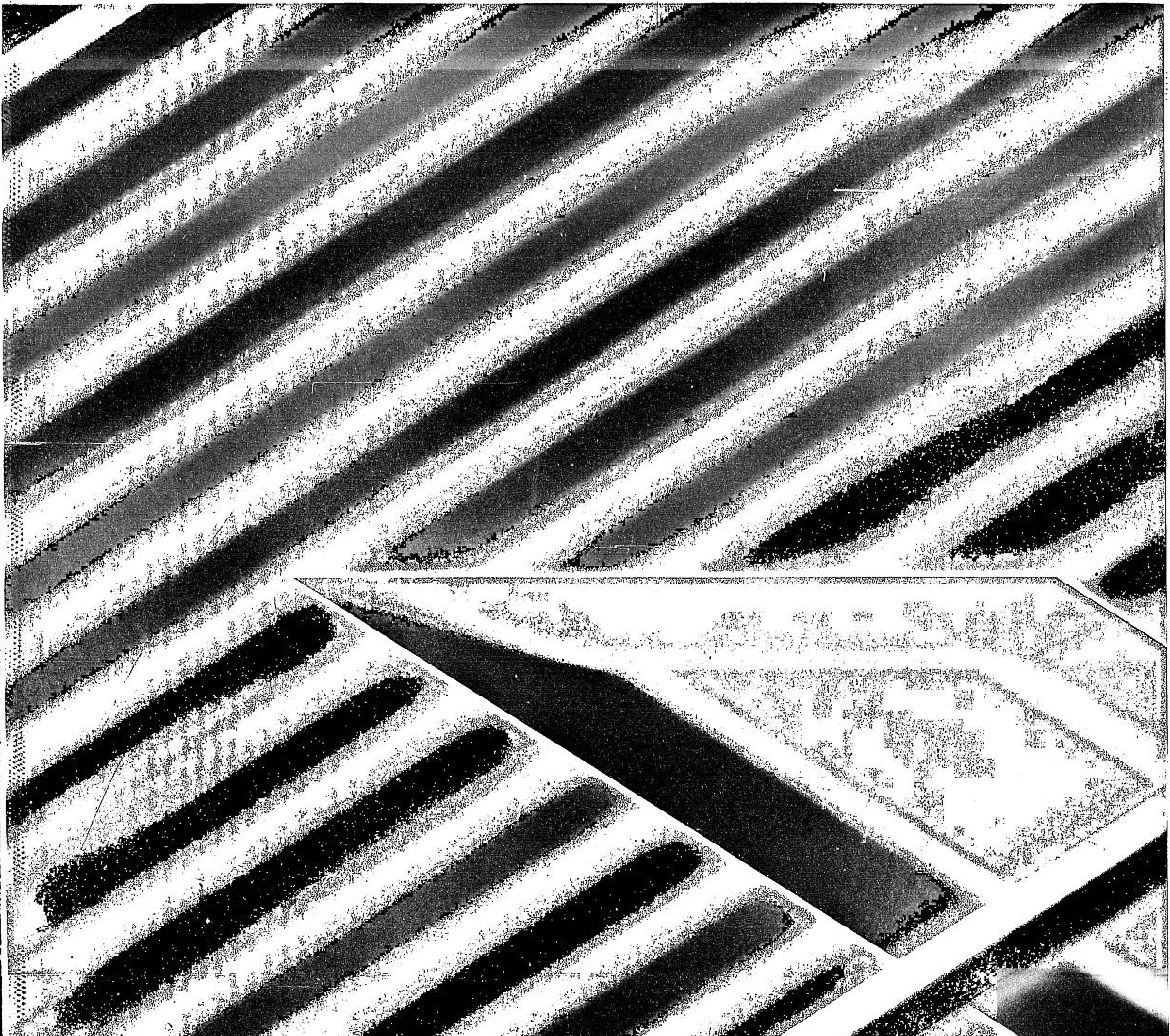
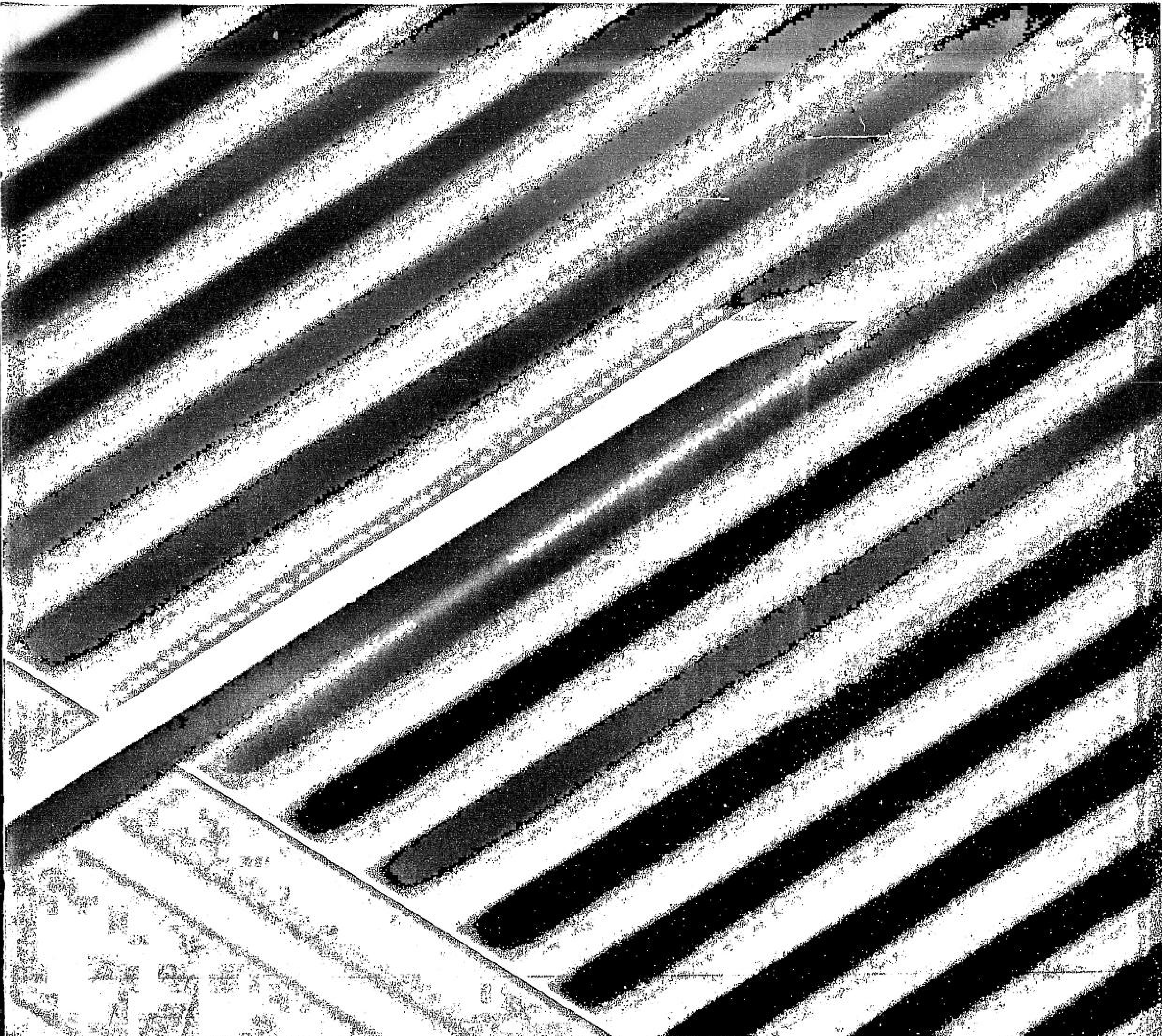


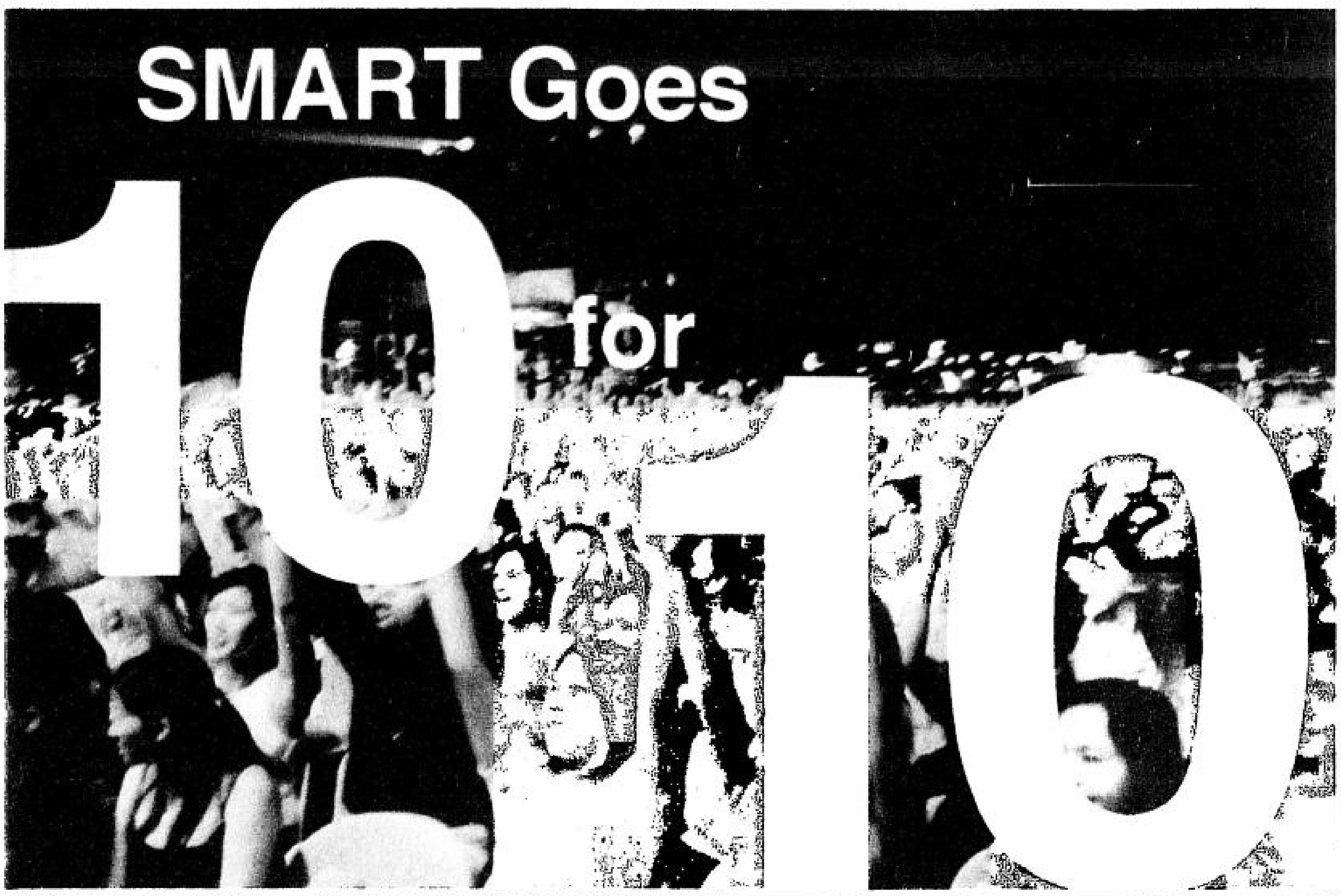
Celebrate

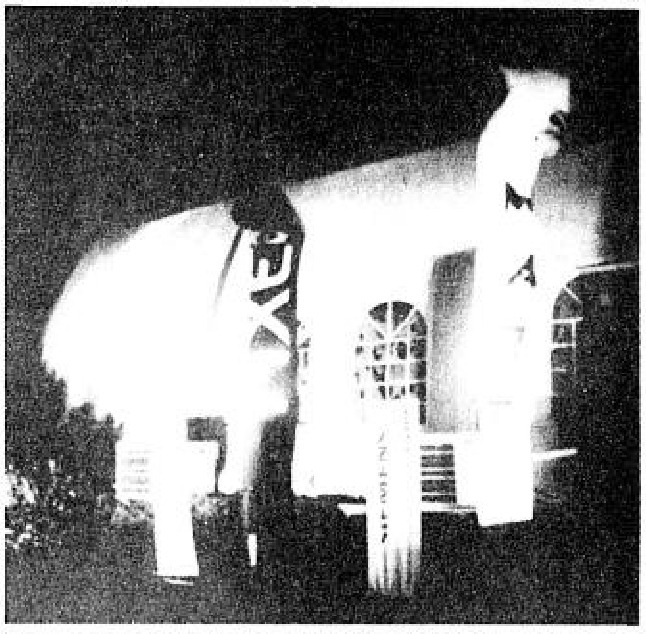
Flip to open



to the 10th power

SMART Goes 10 for 10





Has it been ten years already? Ten years since SMART transformed the Philippine telecommunications scene? Ten years since SMART brought down celfone prices and made celfones and texting a national phenomenon? To quote SMART's tagline: "That's simply amazing!"

As amazing as it seems, SMART has even more in store for its 10th year anniversary celebration. SMART Communications is proud to announce that it has also reached the 10 million subscriber milestone, the first and only wireless service to do so. In commemoration of these two milestones, SMART is launching its Double 10 celebration that promises more of the fun and the parties that SMART has become famous for. Never a company to rest on its laurels, SMART continues to push the limits on all fronts.

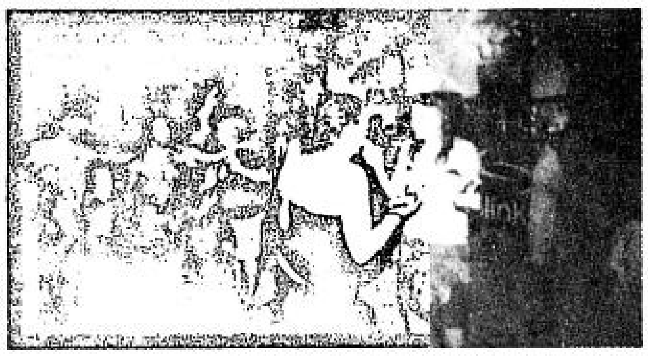
SMART remains on the cutting edge of mobile services technology as evidenced by their latest innovation: the **SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2**. This marvel lets you store up to 500 phone book entries, as well as up to 70 text messages in your inbox. At the same time, it gives you instant access to exciting SMART services exclusive to SMART Buddy subscribers only like STARTXT, logos & ringtones, Pick Of the Week, the SMART Cinema Club and other services exclusive to SMART Buddy users.

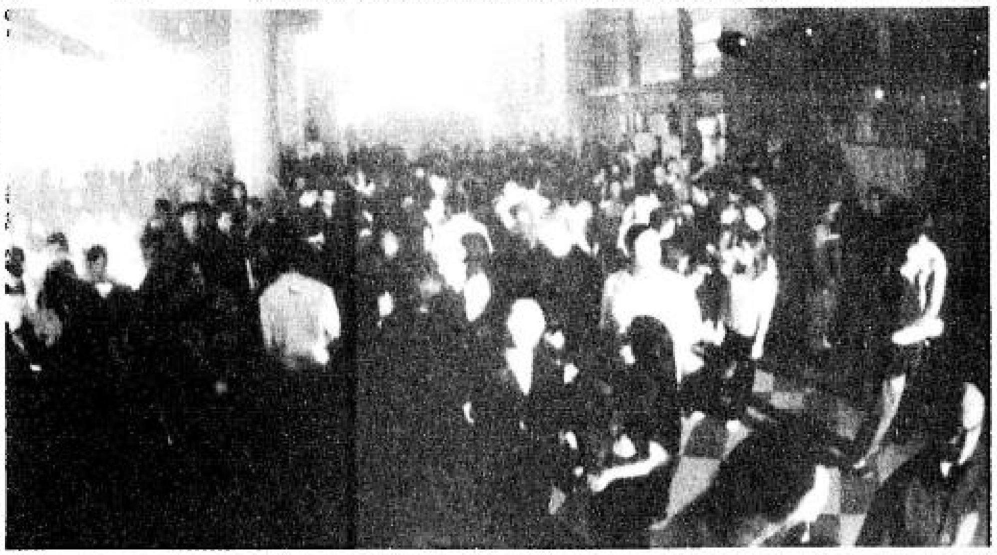
As proof of SMART's leadership in the technological battlefield of the cellular phone industry, here are more of the innovations you can only experience through SMART. With **Buddy Load**, both SMART Buddy and soon, Talk 'N Text subscribers, can stay connected through call or text for as low as P30.00. SMART zed remains the mobile portal of choice, offering the widest range of the most entertaining and useful wireless applications and information.

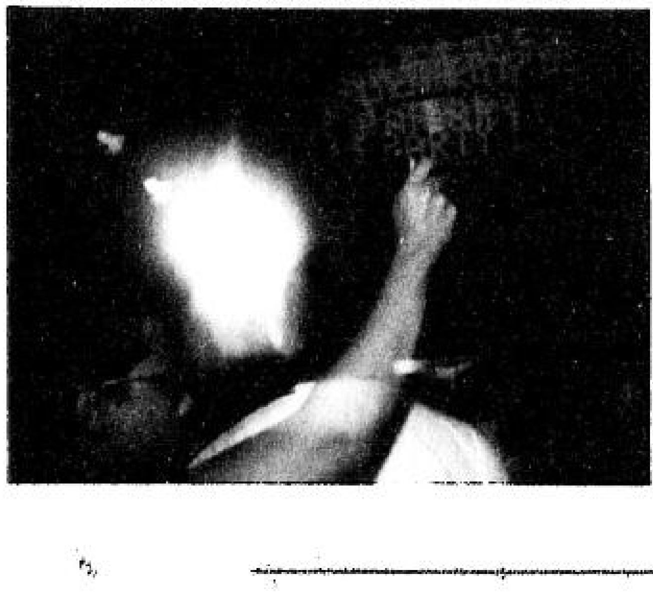
Addict Mobile provides instant access via multimedia messaging service (MMS). Get hooked on what truly interests you whether it be sports, fashion, music, or whatever spices up your lifestyle. With the launch of the **SMART Amazing Phone**, the only Microsoft-powered phone has arrived in Asia. It enables subscribers to browse the Internet, download images, MP3s and movie clips using only their phones. Never satisfied with mediocrity, SMART pushes the envelope of celfone evolution and service farther than it's ever been pushed before.

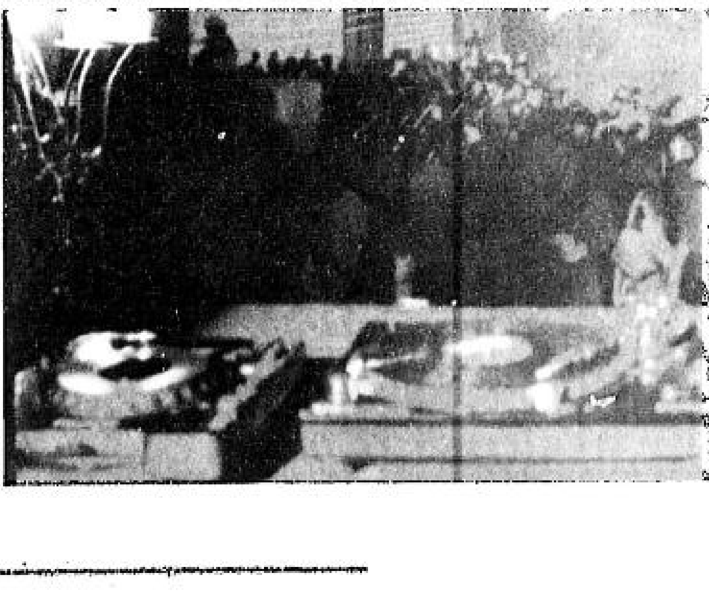
SMART has a whole slew of parties for its Double 10 bash, and SMART subscribers are guaranteed to some awesome prizes and freebies for being part of the SMART family. From a repeat performance of the highly successful Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez World Tour, to the much anticipated dance party courtesy of Ibiza's own Club Pacha, as well as festivities not confined to Metro Manila, the parties and celebrations will shake the nation like no other extravaganza before. Want to be part of the Double 10 bash? Just SIM swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at any of the SMART Wireless Centers nationwide, and you can join in on the fun easily!

Unmatched. Undisputed. Ten million subscribers (and growing) can't be wrong when they pick SMART as their wireless provider of choice. Ten years of existence and continued commitment to excellence have led to SMART being not just a corporate giant, but 2002 Best Employer of the Year as well. So, the choice is obvious. Be SMART!



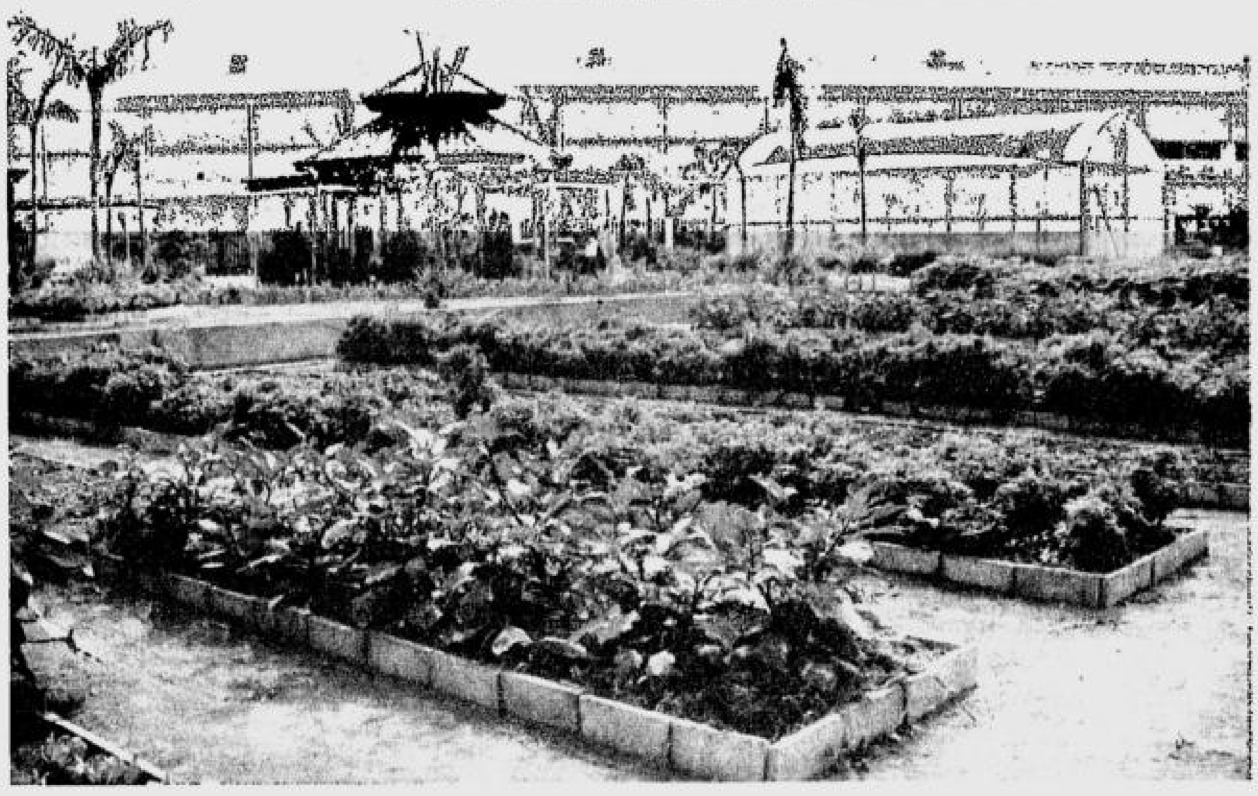






ADVT.

Fitness LIFESTYLE Nature



AN ORGANIC farm right in the middle of Banner Plasticards' industrial estate

Truly, madly, organically

By Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

A 2,000-SQUARE-METER organic farm at the headquarters of Banner Plasticards Inc. sustains all needs for vegetables, herbs and free-range chickens of the company's canteen. Concerned about the wellness of her staff, Evelyn Tan had the vision of an organic menu everyday at affordable prices. The result is a model integrated organic agricultural system at an industrial estate in the heart of Pasig City.

Not only are there kitchen herbs like basil and *siling labuyo*, but also *okra*, eggplant, squash, red bell peppers and Japanese soy beans. The farm also has fresh flowers for decorating offices. Tan's partners in organic advocacy are Petra's Naturally! and Ecological Earth Planner & Consultancy Inc.

Jacqueline Alleje, the moving spirit behind both agricultural consultancies, led the Manila Ladies branch of the International Wine & Food Society (IWFS) to

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Cowboy GRILL	Cowboy GRILL	Cowboy GRILL
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	PERFECT STRANGERS PHYRIGIAN	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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MALATE ☎ 521.8143	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	MUSIC CIRCUIT MR. ROXY	BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JUNE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FAT 16 HEADWORKZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	ALCHEMY VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	RHYTHM ACE 3RD MOVEMENT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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Talong, Mangga, Kamatis with Bagoong
ENTRÉES
Chicken Honey Barbecue
Beef Satay
Chinese Barbecue Spare Ribs
Grilled Burger
Grilled Tuna Tails
Grilled Pork Chops
Kalderetang Kambing
Rellenong Bangus
Mussels in Beer and Garlic
Kilawing Librillo
Okoy
Sitaw Guisado with Hipon
Ginataang Kalabasa with Ampalaya
Vietnamese Fresh Rolls
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Coffee Jelly
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Almond Jelly/Black and White
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Twist

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Ensalada Berenjena á la Mallorquina
Camarónes Crujientes
Tapa de Buey
Calamares al Ajillo
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Ensalada Andaluza
Corazón de Platano de las Canarias
MAIN COURSE
Pescados á las Canarias
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Fried Dumpling
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MAIN DISH
Bird Nest Soup
Make Your Own Palabok
Vietnamese Chili Crabs
Oriental Beefstew
Spicy Buffalo Wings
Celadon's Special Kare-kare
Vegetables in Authentic Chinese Sauce
Korean Barbecued Spare Ribs
Thai Chicken Barbecue
Jasmine Steamed Rice
Yangchow Fried Rice
DESSERTS
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- Grand fireworks display at 9 pm

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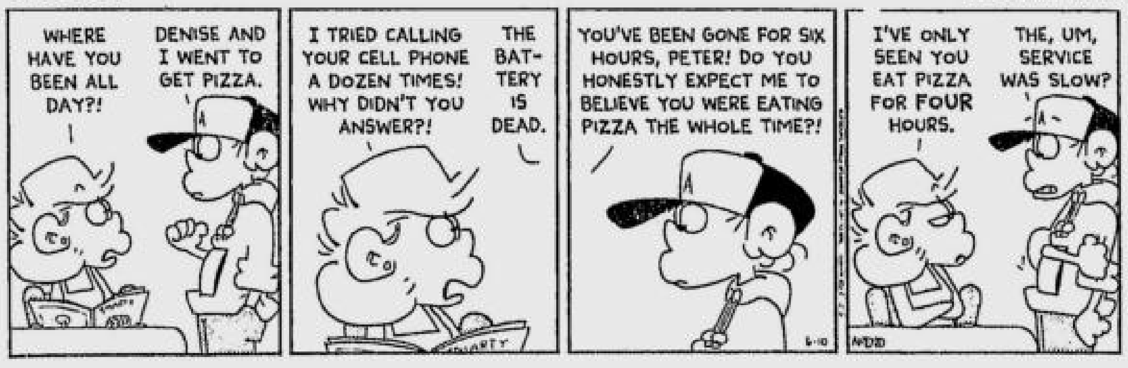
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2003

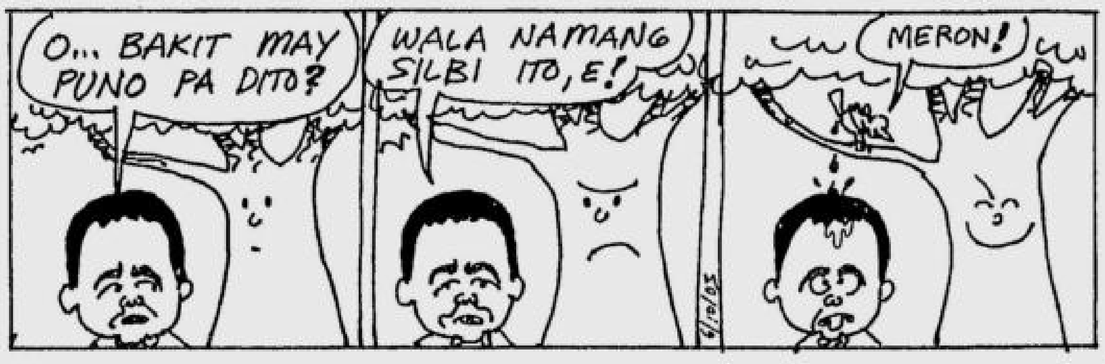
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?!
DENISE AND I WENT TO GET PIZZA.
I TRIED CALLING YOUR CELL PHONE A DOZEN TIMES! WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER?!
THE BATTERY IS DEAD.
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR SIX HOURS, PETER! DO YOU HONESTLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU WERE EATING PIZZA THE WHOLE TIME?!
I'VE ONLY SEEN YOU EAT PIZZA FOR FOUR HOURS.
THE, UM, SERVICE WAS SLOW?
6-10
AMEND

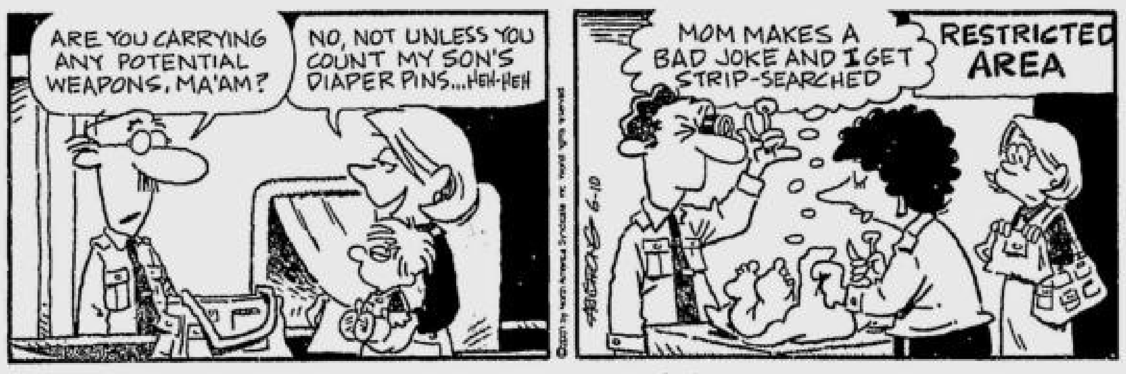
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT MAY PUNO PA DITO?
WALA NAMANG SILBI ITO, E!
MERON!
6/10/03

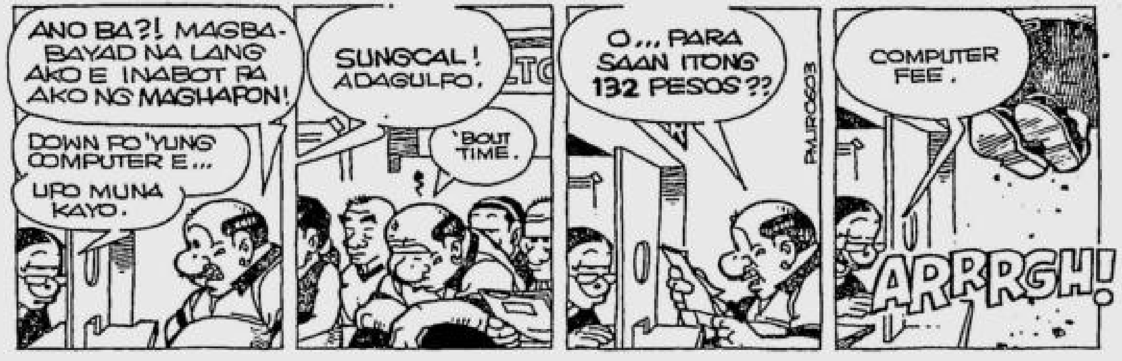
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ARE YOU CARRYING ANY POTENTIAL WEAPONS, MA'AM?
NO, NOT UNLESS YOU COUNT MY SON'S DIAPER PINS...HEH-HEH
MOM MAKES A BAD JOKE AND I GET STRIP-SEARCHED
RESTRICTED AREA
ARMSTRONG 6-10

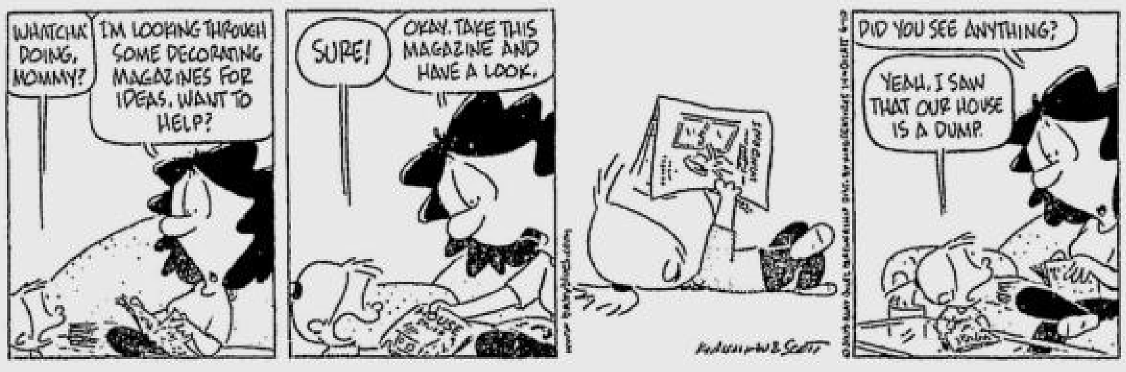
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO BA?! MAGBABAYAD NA LANG AKO E INABOT PA AKO NG MAGHAPON!
DOWN PO 'YUNG COMPUTER E...
UPO MUNA KAYO.
SUNGCAL! ADAGULPO.
'BOUT TIME.
O... PARA SAAN ITONG 132 PESOS??
COMPUTER FEE.
ARRRGH!
PMJR0603

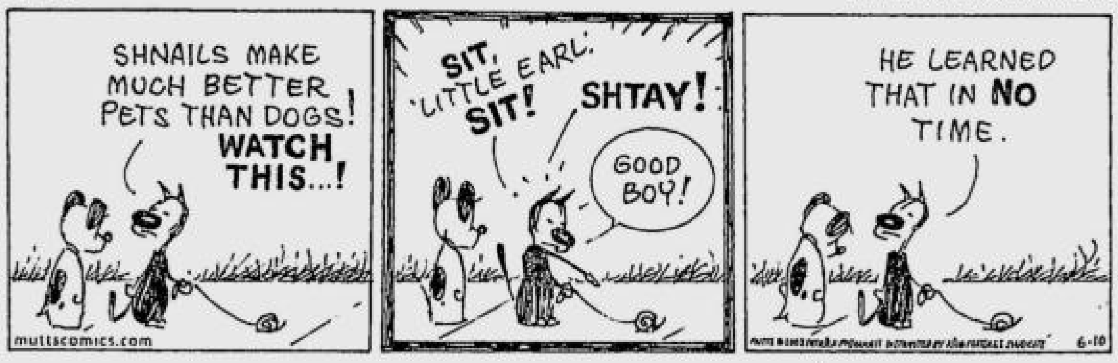
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHATCHA' DOING, MOMMY?
I'M LOOKING THROUGH SOME DECORATING MAGAZINES FOR IDEAS. WANT TO HELP?
SURE!
OKAY. TAKE THIS MAGAZINE AND HAVE A LOOK.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?
YEAH. I SAW THAT OUR HOUSE IS A DUMP.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

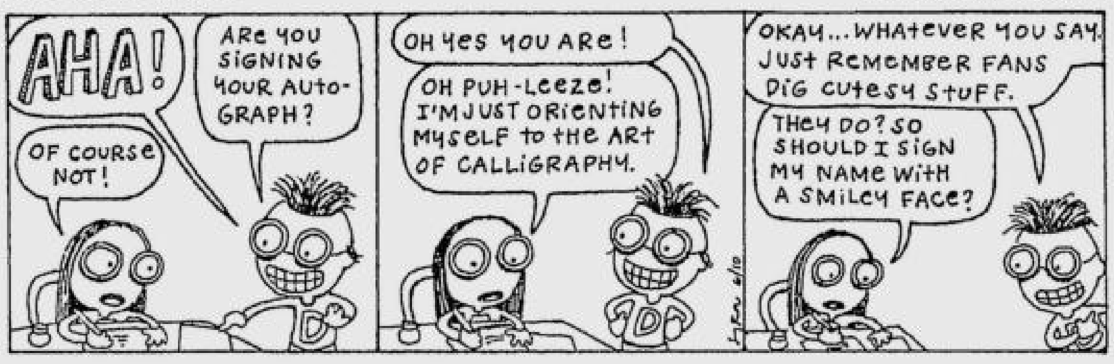
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHNAILS MAKE MUCH BETTER PETS THAN DOGS! WATCH THIS...!
SIT, 'LITTLE EARL.' SIT!
SHTAY!
GOOD BOY!
HE LEARNED THAT IN NO TIME.
muttscomics.com
6-10

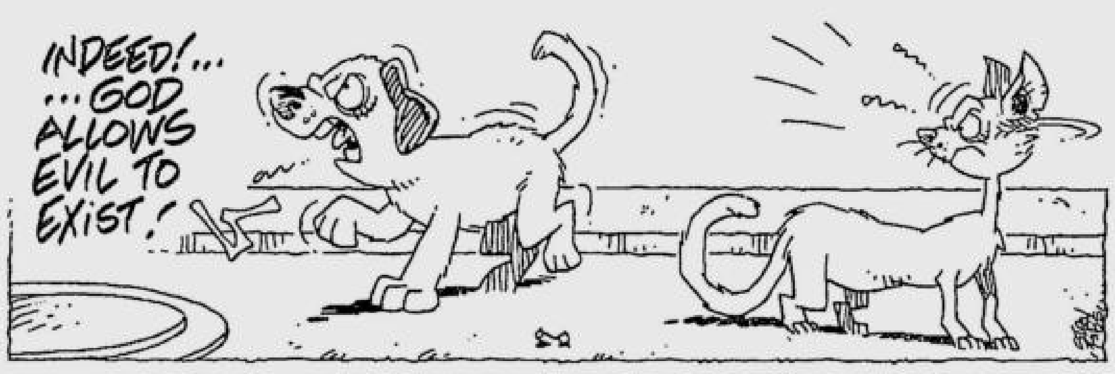
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AHA!
ARE YOU SIGNING YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
OF COURSE NOT!
OH YES YOU ARE!
OH PUH-LEEZE! I'M JUST ORIENTING MYSELF TO THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY.
OKAY... WHATEVER YOU SAY. JUST REMEMBER FANS DIG CUTESY STUFF.
THEY DO? SO SHOULD I SIGN MY NAME WITH A SMILEY FACE?
Lyra 6/10

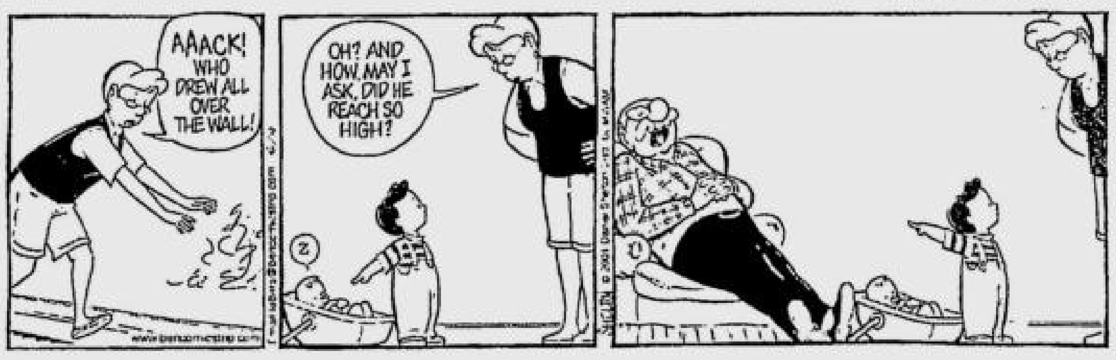
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


INDEED!... ...GOD ALLOWS EVIL TO EXIST!

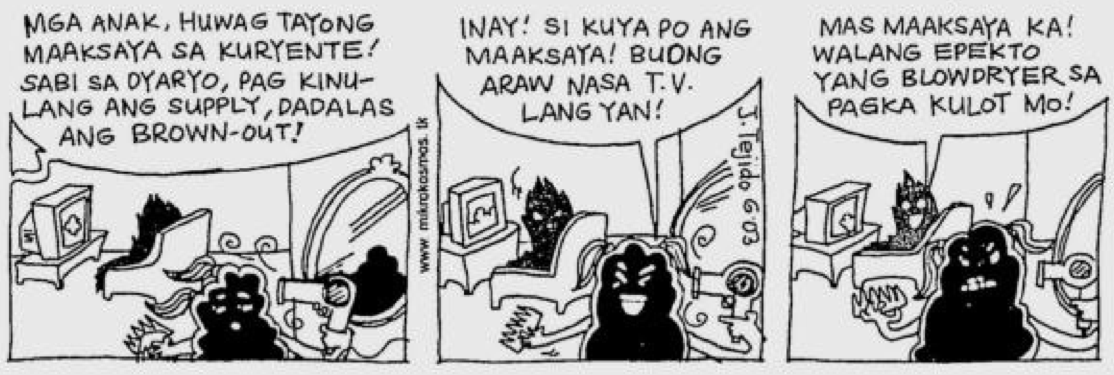
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAACK! WHO DREW ALL OVER THE WALL!
OH? AND HOW, MAY I ASK, DID HE REACH SO HIGH?
www.bencomicstrip.com

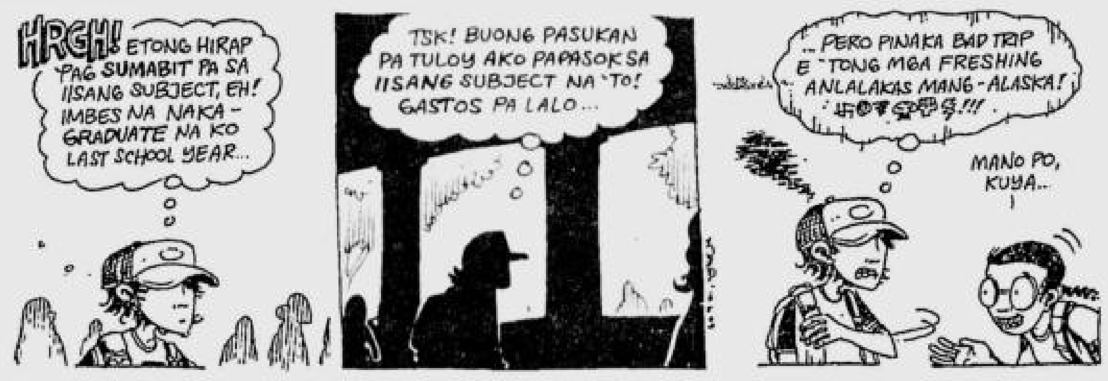
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MGA ANAK, HUWAG TAYONG MAAKSAYA SA KURYENTE! SABI SA DYARYO, PAG KINULANG ANG SUPPLY, DADALAS ANG BROWN-OUT!
INAY! SI KUYA PO ANG MAAKSAYA! BUONG ARAW NASA T.V. LANG YAN!
MAS MAAKSAYA KA! WALANG EPEKTO YANG BLOWDRYER SA PAGKA KULOT MO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 6.03

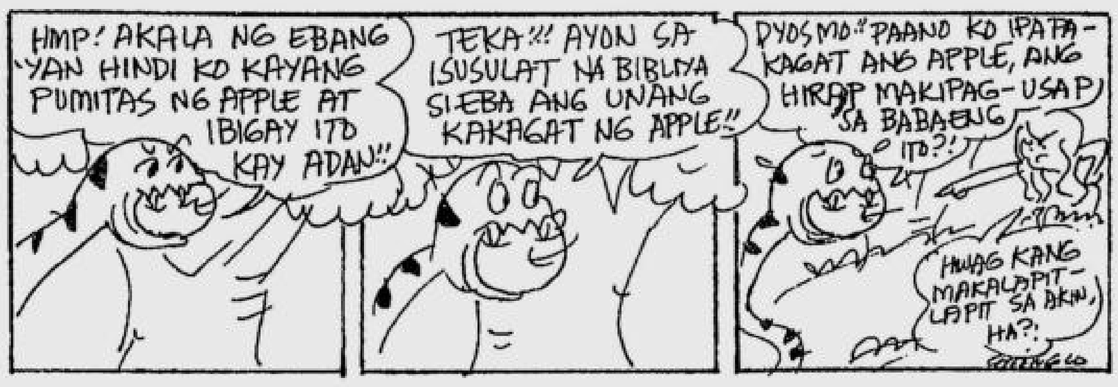
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRGH! ETONG HIRAP 'PAG SUMABIT PA SA IISANG SUBJECT, EH! IMBES NA NAKA-GRADUATE NA KO LAST SCHOOL YEAR...
TSK! BUONG PASUKAN PA TULOY AKO PAPASOK SA IISANG SUBJECT NA 'TO! GASTOS PA LALO...
...PERO PINAKA BAD TRIP E 'TONG MGA FRESHING ANLALAKAS MANG-ALASKA!
MANO PO, KUYA...

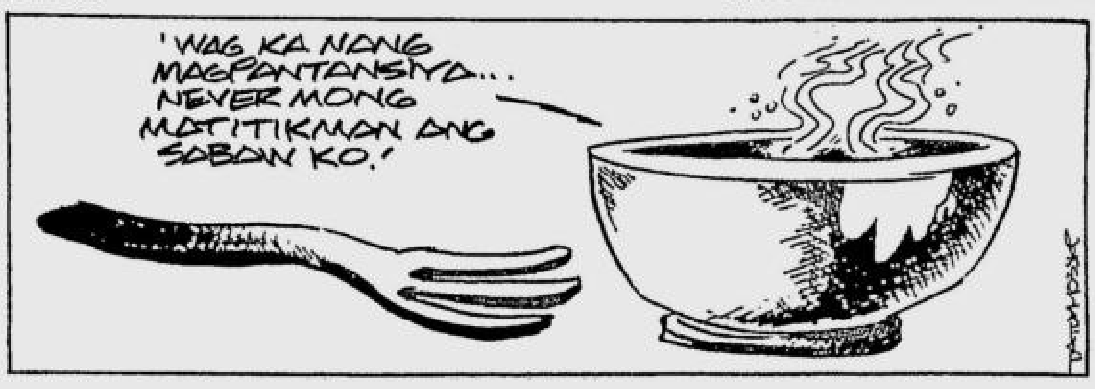
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HMP! AKALA NG EBANG 'YAN HINDI KO KAYANG PUMITAS NG APPLE AT IBIGAY ITO KAY ADAN!!
TEKA!!! AYON SA ISUSULAT NA BIBLIYA SI EBA ANG UNANG KAKAGAT NG APPLE!!
DYOS MO!! PAANO KO IPAPAKAGAT ANG APPLE, ANG HIRAP MAKIPAG-USAP SA BABAENG ITO?!
HUWAG KANG MAKALAPIT-LAPIT SA AKIN, HA?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KA NANG MAGPANTANSIYA... NEVER MONG MATITIKMAN ANG SABAW KO.'

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your curious mind makes you a trailblazer for others in this world. You want to know a little bit about everything. You're hungry for information through books, magazines, film and travel. You have no trouble with languages, and are an effective communicator. You will never stop learning. Exciting choices await you this year. **Birthdate of:** Faith Evans, singer; Leelee Sobieski, actress; Hattie McDaniel, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're in no mood to debate with people about financial matters today. Differences with others about possessions or spending money test your patience.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might feel touchy and irritable today, especially with authority figures, parents and VIPs. You feel you have to defend your beliefs. (This defensive stance weakens your position.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because you believe so strongly in something, you might jump the gun today. In truth, you cannot convince others if they will not listen to you anyhow. Relax.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's all right to defend your best interests when it comes to sharing things today. You have been very generous lately. Don't let others take advantage of you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You like to get along with everyone because you enjoy your popularity. But today it is exasperating to find that partners and members of the general public are challenging. Remain calm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Disagreements at work are likely today, especially about media-related or publishing matters. Remember that soft words get better cooperation than harsh ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Quarrels with romantic interests (or possibly children) are likely today. Whatever upsets you will probably turn out to be nothing when you look at it months from now. Keep that in mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Tension and chaos at home contribute to uptight conversations with partners. Be careful not to send out signals to trigger this. Don't go looking for a fight. (This will make you miserable, too.)

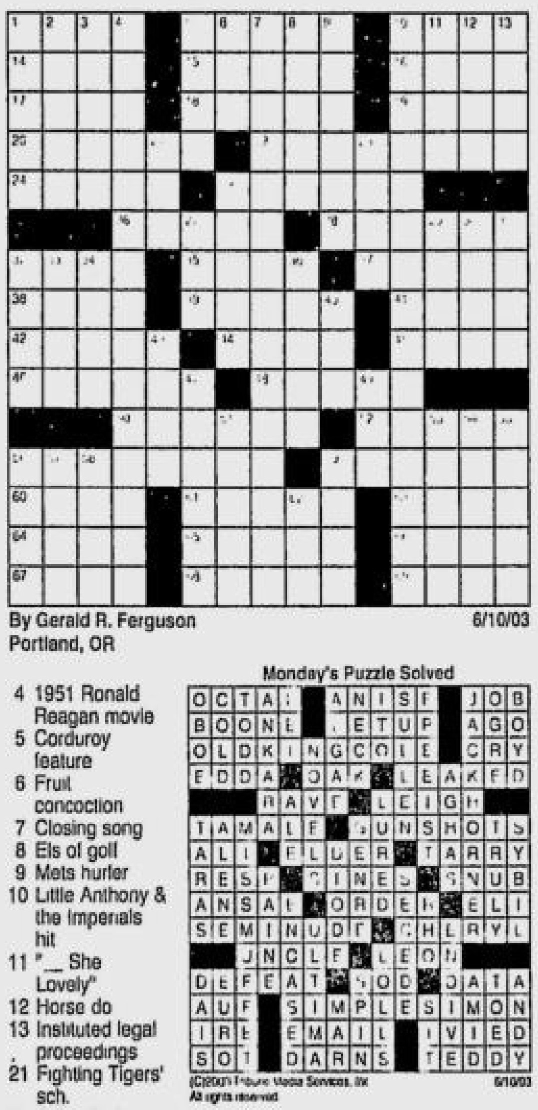
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because you are so determined to sell, persuade or convince others of your point of view, ironically, you might do just the opposite. Generally, the hard sell turns people off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You are determined to get your own way about something today. You feel that your happiness is at stake. But in truth, isn't this really a minor event? Think about it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do not be aggressive when dealing with family members today. Because fiery Mars is in your sign now, it's easy to come on too strong with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This can be an accident-prone day. Be careful of burns, especially to your arms and legs, or of making mistakes while walking or driving. Keep a calm mind in whatever you do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

6/10/03

ACROSS
1 U.A.E. word
5 Pay
10 Allen and Robbins
14 Tree trunk
15 Cherish
16 Birthright seller
17 In the center of
18 Infamous Helmsley
19 Ms. Bancroft
20 Hideyoshi or Elsinore, e.g.
22 Turned aside
24 Pros' opposition
25 Expressions of contempt
26 Civilian dress
28 Cheered
32 Church area
35 Old crones
37 Type of drum
38 Table extension
39 Partner of Porthos
41 Med. scans
42 Lowest deck
44 European volcano
45 Jerk
46 __ del Fuego
48 Helping hand?
50 God of the north wind
52 Hollow tubes
56 Approached aggressively
59 Unvoiced
60 Earth orbiter
61 Cork population
63 Queen of Sparta
64 Neighbor of N. Mex.
65 Surrounding blockade
66 Pizzeria fixture
67 Saintly glow
68 Finals
69 Ties the knot

DOWN
1 Bananalike plant
2 Director Polanski
3 Elite social category
4 1951 Ronald Reagan movie
5 Corduroy feature
6 Fruit concoction
7 Closing song
8 Els of golf
9 Mets hurler
10 Little Anthony & the Imperials hit
11 "__ She Lovely"
12 Horse do
13 Instituted legal proceedings
21 Fighting Tigers' sch.
23 Aphrodite's son
25 Declare
27 Govt. agcy. (1934-65)
29 Scarlett's home
30 Emerald Isle
31 Cubicle furniture
32 Scads
33 Gilpin of "Frasier"
34 Mall event
36 Loudness units
40 Downswing
43 Paid players
47 Performer
49 News agcy.
51 Spooky
53 Nettle
54 Finished
55 Musial and Getz
56 Oriental nanny
57 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
58 Spiral shape
59 "__ a Lady"
62 E. Bilko or Friday, e.g.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

O	C	T	A	L	■	A	N	I	S	E	■	J	O	B
B	O	O	N	E	■	S	E	T	U	P	■	A	G	O
O	L	D	K	I	N	G	C	O	L	E	■	C	R	Y
E	D	D	A	■	O	A	K	■	L	E	A	K	E	D
■	■	■	R	A	V	E	■	L	E	I	G	H	■	■
T	A	M	A	L	E	■	G	U	N	S	H	O	T	S
A	L	I	■	E	L	D	E	R	■	T	A	R	R	Y
R	E	S	T	■	T	I	N	E	S	■	S	N	U	B
A	N	S	A	E	■	O	R	D	E	R	■	E	L	I
S	E	M	I	N	U	D	E	■	C	H	E	R	Y	L
■	■	U	N	C	L	E	■	L	E	O	N	■	■	■
D	E	F	E	A	T	■	S	O	D	■	D	A	T	A
A	U	F	■	S	I	M	P	L	E	S	I	M	O	N
I	R	E	■	E	M	A	I	L	■	I	V	I	E	D
S	O	T	■	D	A	R	N	S	■	T	E	D	D	Y

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6/10/03

Truly, madly, organically

From page E1

Banner Plasticards to show how even the urban setting can be maximized for food production.

"Organic certification is a self-imposed third-party quality control system that serves the consumers and producers as well," she explained.

The Organic Certification Center of the Philippines uses standards patterned after definitions and procedures of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM). The Philippines can indeed be an exporter of organic produce while feeding the nation, Alleje said.

Environmental grade

Organic agriculture, according to IFOAM, includes "all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and economically sound production of foods and fibers. These systems take local soil fertility as key to successful production. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals and landscapes, organic farming aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment.It dramatically reduces external input by refraining from the use of chemosynthetic fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. Instead it allows powerful laws of nature to increase both agricultural yields and disease reduction."

"The main reason for organic agriculture is to produce healthy foods for human consumption," Alleje added.

The group proceeded to Leisure Farms in Tagaytay on Diokno Highway in the direction of Lemery. "Harvest the fullness of life," announced Leisure Farms banners and brochures. With the help of Ecological Earth Planners, the "second home for the weekend farmer" is able to sustain a model organic demo farm for vegetables, kitchen herbs and medicinal plants sold at its produce market.

The farm has greenhouses for seedlings, organic hydroponics, and plots of rich compost made with the help of earthworms.

MARIVIC Vazquez (left) and Elsie Araneta shop for organic kitchen herbs, fruits and vegetables at Leisure Farms.

Other services

Homeowners can also avail themselves of farm management services such as planning and layout, contract growing, farm supplies and equipment, labor and training services. That means an investment in a weekend property of 1,000 square meters with a well-designed organic farm can be economically viable while providing relaxation and the rewards of using one's green thumb.

LEMON grass (*tanglad*) grows lushly at the organic Leisure Farms. It makes a pleasant *tissane* and can be teamed with lime, lemon and *calamansi*.

"Professional agricultural services mean hassle-free farming," said Alby Xerez-Burgos, AVP group head of Leisure Farms, the first agro-tourism venture in the country. "We offer agri-tainment, demo farming, and residential properties...for people who want to have a farm, no matter how small, at their weekend retreat."

Using Leisure Farms produce, chef Anne Bernal, Alleje's partner, put her Culinary Institute of America training to work and created the Gourmet Buffet Campagnard. Under a large white tent near the infant organic market, guests tasted the freshness and delicious qualities of organic ingredients in *pan de sal* and baguette spread with pate from Pamora Farms free-range chickens, an organic salad bar that included beets in Rizal Dairy's Swiss quark, spinach quiche made from the eggs of free-range chickens, Dagupeña's milk fish grilled with pesto and served with aioli, barbecued pork ribs with organic muscovado, organic rice cooked in *palayok*, fresh fruits, and a Terry's Selection Otonal Rioja rosé.

The country picnic proved Alleje's point: "Organic eating is not only healthy but a joy to the senses."

The weekend promoted IWFS' concern for an understanding and appreciation of culinary culture and the art that goes into producing the everyday meal.

The challenge of 21st century cuisine is for organic believers to show determination and persistence in cooking with organic produce as the key to a healthy life.

Dangers of absolute reliance on authority

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ONE characteristic of the Filipino mind that I have observed is its tendency, or reluctance, nay, its fear or phobia to think for itself. The Filipino would rather follow blindly an authority figure, even if questionable, than rely on his own intellect and innate mental faculties.

This tendency can be found not only among the ignorant or uneducated, but even among highly educated ones. I remember a personal encounter illustrating this.

I was working in a company and I was having a conversation with some fellow managers and supervisors about religious topics, including reincarnation. Then the controller came in and asked what we were talking about. When I told him that we were talking about reincarnation, whether it is true we have lived before and if we will live again in another body in the future, he backed out and said, "Oh, oh! I don't want to discuss that. I don't even want to hear about that!"

Surprised, I asked him why? "What's wrong with discussing the topic? Don't you want to hear the arguments for it?"

"No, No!" he cried, "I don't want to upset my belief system. I am already having trouble understanding my (Catholic) faith and I don't want to have to think about other ideas that may go against it."

"How do you know it is against your faith?" I asked, but he would not listen. He raised his hands and left us.

Here is one highly educated executive of a big company exhibiting extreme phobia to think for himself. He had, at that time, become a member of a Bible study group that considered any idea outside the Catholic religion to be wrong and should not be entertained. He has already closed his mind to further intellectual pursuit of knowledge. "I have made up my mind, don't bother me with facts," he seems to be saying.

When thinking stops

He is not alone. I realize there are many Filipinos who think like him. Recently, I attended the baptism of my grandchild. During the reception, I had a conversation with my sister-in-law, a physician, who works in a large government financial institution. She told me that one of the executives asked if she had read my article about the romantic relationship between Mary Magdalene and Jesus Christ. And she replied, "Yes, I've read it. Why?"

> The Filipino would rather blindly follow an authority figure than rely on his own intellect

He said he just read the title and refused to read the rest of the article. He felt it was blasphemous to even think Jesus Christ could fall in love with a woman. He was visibly upset by the whole idea. He refused even to consider the possibility that there could be some evidence to support it. His mind simply stopped to function! It has become completely incapable of entertaining new ideas.

This is a very good example of that famous statement of J. Khrishnamurti that I keep quoting here. He said, "When thinking starts with a conclusion, thinking stops."

There is absolutely nothing that will convince this person, or anybody who thinks like him, that he can be wrong. Such people are afraid that their belief system might be proven wrong. They couldn't stand that. They'd rather not hear anything said against it or else would at once label any attempt to disprove it to be false from the very beginning.

That's a technique employed by political despots, demagogues and religious bigots. Hitler tried it, so did the Catholic Church. Destroy the evidence or label it heresy or say it's the work of Satan or else belittle it so it would not be given importance. They also make as much logical distinctions as possible, so that their original conclusions remain intact and inviolate. They will never see the fallacy or error in reasoning in their arguments. To them, it is the other side that's illogical.

"Fear is the basis of religious dogma, as of so much else in human life," said the modern philosopher, Bertrand Russell. "Religion, since it has its source in terror, has dignified certain kinds of fears and made people think them not disgraceful."

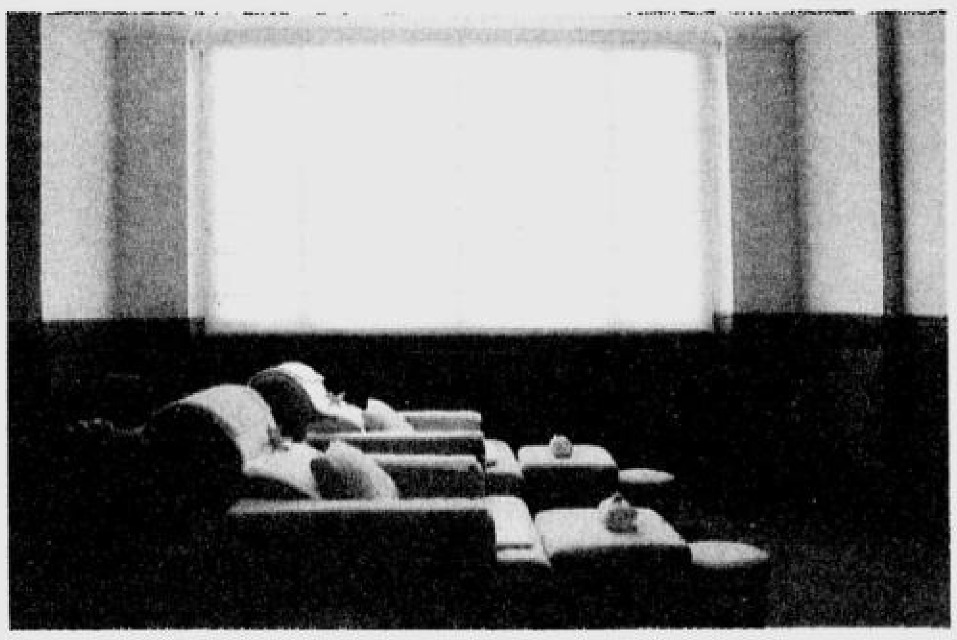
Challenging the status quo

Progress belongs to those who dare challenge the status quo and conventional thinking. With so much information available from so many sources, the Internet, books, media, text messages, and numerous discussion and study groups, it is really futile to try to suppress or censor ideas that may go against one's own beliefs. Better to let more people have access to them than try to hide them. For in the end, "Truth will out," as Shakespeare put it.

There is a dentist who calls himself "a defender of the faith," who keeps writing to me and telling me that I am promoting false doctrines and leading people astray. False according to whom? This person has labeled everything not in accord with his preconceived conclusions and belief system to be unreliable, heretical and inauthentic. Only his own sources are not.

Those who think they have found the whole truth and do not wish to upset their orthodox way of thinking should not read this column. They should confine their readings only to those writings that have been scrutinized, reinterpreted and approved by ecclesiastical authorities. And if this becomes the norm for all Filipinos, then, God help this country! For, as Ralph Waldo Emerson correctly pointed out, "Conformity in behavior is a human necessity, but conformity in thinking is a human danger."

Note: Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Tel. nos.: 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.



THE RELAXATION room

New hotel spa opens

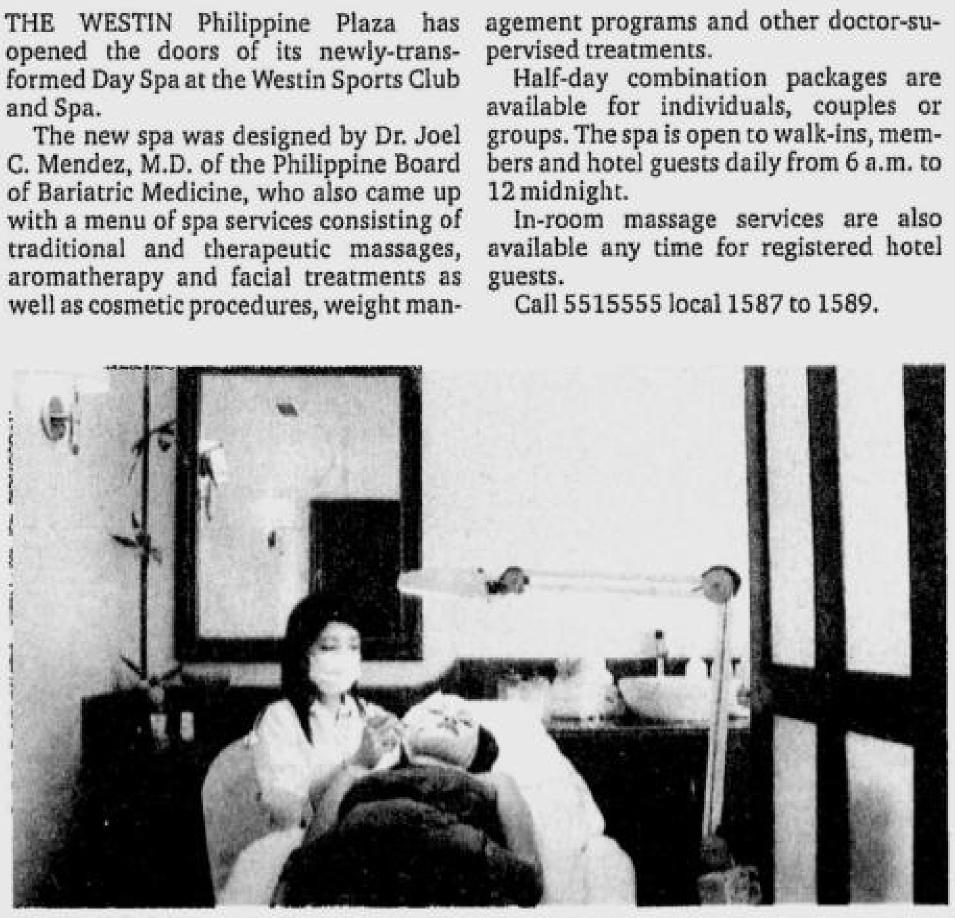
THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza has opened the doors of its newly-transformed Day Spa at the Westin Sports Club and Spa.

The new spa was designed by Dr. Joel C. Mendez, M.D. of the Philippine Board of Bariatric Medicine, who also came up with a menu of spa services consisting of traditional and therapeutic massages, aromatherapy and facial treatments as well as cosmetic procedures, weight management programs and other doctor-supervised treatments.

Half-day combination packages are available for individuals, couples or groups. The spa is open to walk-ins, members and hotel guests daily from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight.

In-room massage services are also available any time for registered hotel guests.

Call 5515555 local 1587 to 1589.



PRIVATE facial room

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Since I recently got married, can I make amendments on my enrolled dependents? How do I go about this?

With your change in marital status, there will be a corresponding change on your dependents eligible for enrollment to MEDICard. Since your marriage, the first qualified for enrollment is your spouse and eventually your child. Consequently, this change in marital status disqualifies your previously enrolled dependents (i.e. single members: parents and siblings) and is automatically "deleted" from membership. For these changes, inform in writing your company's HRD (for corporate accounts) or your MEDICard servicing officer.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Obstetrics and Gynecology is the specialization of MEDICard accredited service provider, **Dr. Felicitas C. Lector.** "Doktora Lector", who services the needs of members at Medical City General Hospital (MCGH) joined MEDICard in 2000. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took her residency training for her specialization at MCGH. She also subspecializes in OB-Gyne Ultrasound. She has more than 13 years of clinical practice and is a Fellow to the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Society of Ultrasound in OB-Gynecology. Members may visit her for consultations at her clinic at the Medico Bldg., from Mondays to Saturdays, 1 to 4 PM.

Dr. Violeta V. Mendoza has been a MEDICard accredited service provider since 1989. "Doktora Mendoza" as she has gone to be known, specializes in the field of Pediatrics. She finished Medicine at UERM-MMC and her residency training for her specialization at the Quirino Memorial General Hospital. She has more than 24 years in the practice of her field. Members may visit her for consultations at her clinic, the World Citi Medical Center (formerly QCMC), Room 218, from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon and again from 2 to 5 PM.

At the General Santos Doctors Hospital in South Cotabato, members may seek the services of **Dr. Francisco N. Lorenzo.** After finishing Medicine at the Manila Central University, Doc Francisco chose to take residency training for specialization in General Surgery and subspecialization in burn injuries at the Brokenshire Memorial Hospital in Davao. He joined MEDICard in 1998. Members may visit him at his clinic for consultations from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon and again from 2 to 5PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

COME FLY WITH ME! Trina Samaniego wearing a *paru-paro*-inspired handwoven wrap with tangerine linen pants

MIDSUMMER DAY'S DREAM. Carina Sison and Dona Tumacder cavort in their nymph-inspired banana handwoven fabric wraps.

A rainforest for a ramp

ENVIRONMENTALIST Dita Sandico-Ong, known for her banana fiber shawls in vibrant and colorful designs, continued to defy the norms of fashion shows by showing her collection in a rainforest during the recent Earth Day celebrations.

Earthaven, the 27-hectare rainforest in San Mateo, Rizal and first eco-village in the Philippines, became a fitting showcase for Sandico-Ong's collections that opened with the whites, followed by the pastels, the brights and the Mangyan-inspired menswear.

The formal collection was a show all its own. Models on center stage showed how to wear the wraps in amazing ways, and even wrap-swapped with each other.

The bridal collection was a fitting finale. Chin-Chin Gutierrez, actress-environment activist who graced recently Time Magazine's cover as one of Asia's Heroes, was carried from the top of one pavilion then brought down to meet her "groom".

The rolling hills filled with trees and flowers served as the ramp. There were around 30 character models, from different schools like Ateneo, UA&P, DLSU, I.S., among others. When the music played, they came out one by one, just like fairies and nymphs of the forest. The effect was ethereal. Each one gracefully walked down the hills barefoot, swathed in the clothes of Sandico-Ong with ease, flow and movement.

The avant garde movement set to the ethnic strains of Gusi, a Baguio-based ensemble, was conceptualized by Dona Tumacder. Raymond Villanueva provided overall direction.

The sunny morning show was attended by family, friends, media and diplomats from Bangladesh, Britain, India, Pakistan, Russia, Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Malta and Sri Lanka.

WRAP ARTIST Dita Sandico Ong with her Earth Day models (from left) Shai Misa, Chin-Chin Gutierrez and Dona Tumacder

GROOVIN' TO THE BEAT. The Gusi ensemble

DARING *DIWATA*. Actress-activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez

Asian meet discuss management of protected areas

onal Meeting
5, 2003 Philippine

DR. JOHN McKinnon, co-director, Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation

THE HARIBON Foundation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other non-government organizations organized recently the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Third Southeast Asia Regions Meeting.

The event gathered protected area practitioners from Southeast Asia to document and share experiences in managing the region's protected areas like national parks, wildlife reserves, marine sanctuaries and other important biodiversity areas.

During the conference, Haribon presented three papers: local governance in forest protection, managing marine protected areas and geothermal energy development in protected areas.

More than 50 other papers from Southeast Asian countries were presented, with the Philippines having the most number.

Among those who participated in the conference were DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun, former DENR Secretary Victor Ramos, WCPA Southeast Asia vice chair Effendy Sumardja of Indonesia, IUCN Asia Regional Program on Protected Areas head Kishore Rao, Maurizio Ferrari of the IUCN Theme on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas, and Royal Netherlands Embassy First Secretary Jan Willem Cools.

The regional meet was also in preparation for the 5th World Parks Congress, which will be held this September in Durban, South Africa.

It received major support and funding from institutions such as the Royal Netherlands Embassy, UNESCO World Heritage, the European Community, Japan Foundation, BirdLife International and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

PROF. BLAS Tabaranza, Terrestrial Ecosystems program director, Haribon Foundation